

COMPILED EVALUATIONS
ACS Student Environmental Leadership Conference
Furman University, October 2005

1. What did you expect to gain from attending the Leadership Conference?

- I really had very few expectations of the summit but I imagined that it would be very micro-oriented. Instead I think the focus was on a combination of individual responsibility and macro-institution-wide change.
- A base, support group for encouragement in the field.
- How to persuade my school to adopt some of the other schools' environmental efforts.
- Ideas for my own campus; a way to get past obstacles we face b/c of administration; a support/network group in the south
- To hear about what other schools are up to
- New ideas to overcome obstacles to things I am trying to accomplish
- I expected to gain several ideas and new strategies for implementing them. I also expected to gain more knowledge/insight into the differing aspects of environmentalism
- Honestly, I had no idea what to expect. After being told it was training, I expected a lot of lectures. But I also expected to gain a lot of new ideas from participants & instructors.
- Fresh ideas. New friends. Memories.
- History of successful ER program at Sewanee and a process for starting one at my campus.
- Ideas, motivation, network of fellow friends of the earth
- Mostly ideas, motivation, support, and more knowledge about environmental issues
- Exactly how to go about planning and carrying out my project
- More info on ACS, ERs, environmental sciences
- Ideas, logistical capability
- I was rather unsure since I hadn't been to one before
- Better knowledge of successful programs @ other schools—trouble shooting advice, networking connections, friends :>, more knowledge of what's going on in general. . .
- Much less than I leave with. I mostly expected lots of programmed teambuilding activities, but I was encouraged by the (see below)
- I expected to get motivation in the form of new ideas and networking b/t people. I had expectations from the summit in Feb. that I would be introduced to things I had never thought of.

2. Did you gain anything above and beyond your expectations?

- I really didn't expect to get so much of an international perspective. Of course the environment is an international issue but I thought we were going to be looking at just college campuses. I loved, and prefer, the international approach.
- Yes. I made friends. I also got many ideas outside of my frame of mind.
- I did
- Some new friends, knowledge about healthy eating—more info about why it is good to be a vegetarian or vegan
- Yes—I was so excited to see Furman's biodiesel facilities & learn exactly how they work. It was also great to hear some profs speak about their inspiration
- Motivation. I cam looking for a list to reduce the struggle of my enviro role but I ended up increasing that role and feeling better about it.
- Yes! Several new friends!
- Yes. I learned that change starts with us. You can't teach reform.
- I learned about the Costa Rica summer study program. I also gained new perspectives on the environment.
- Yes. Motivation, community building with students throughout ACS—faster and stronger than I would have thought.
- More human connection, fun & inspiration than I expected
- Yes I became educated on several issues I had no prior knowledge of: biodiesel, ERs, composting, etc.
- Lots of good extra ideas to take home; met some amazing people

- Yes, I met other students that had similar passions and talents. I also learned from the panel/speakers and facilitators
- Plenty of ideas and some motivation too
- Yes! It was wonderful meeting people who also love the environment. I really felt less “alone” in the world. I appreciated the new environmental ideas that we could use on our campus.
- I didn't expect such a wonderful Costa Rica presentation! What a treat! I loved the student success presentations by H. & MB & Colin
- I was encouraged by the amount of student control of the dialogue. It was great to hear their ideas in the context of the professors' information
- I got to know the people here much better than I had expected; also information for planning such as the SEAC is, I feel, going to be very useful

3. Was there anything you felt was missing from the conference that could have improved your experience?

- I don't really have anything jump to mind but I would have certainly enjoyed more time with professors. That's not even to say we didn't have enough. I just really enjoy professors.
- A broader scope of schools giving ideas. I loved everything that Sewanee was/is doing. But I would like to get a feel for projects that are going on at other schools.
- I think it would have been nice to sit around before dinner on the first night & really introduce ourselves—where we are from & what programs are successful at our schools
- I felt it would have helped if faculty advisors were here as well
- No, it was great
- More one on one with faculty and success stories. It is hard to break into the messy business of individual schools' politics, but I think we should try to go further in that direction
- I think we could have done a better job having fun. But, I still had a blast! I just hope everyone else did and that nobody got bored [from a Furman student in charge of entertainment]
- There were a few opportunities for some fun diversion that were missed [from a Furman student]
- Nope. It was really great as it was.
- No.
- Can't really think of anything
- I would have benefited from a few more concrete suggestions—ex: how to make a recycling program work, or lists, how-to's, steps to take in general to be successful w/our projects
- I never got to go into any details of my project or got any useful tips pertaining to my project
- More food
- Can't think of anything
- Possibly more “getting started” type handouts/booklets/etc.
- I wish that each school had presented a successful project the way the wonderful Sewanee girls did b/c I wanted to learn more abt what was going on & working @ other schools
- More of what we had. The focus was good, but highlighting other programs would be valuable also.
- I would have liked there to have been better night activities, or just more pow-wow activities like the Sunday @ 11:30 things.

4. What was the thing you felt most needed improvement?

- The early mornings. I would've enjoyed doing something that woke me up a little more. I understand that 8 am is somewhat necessary but it always took me awhile to get going.
- See above
- More brainstorming ideas
- Timing, there may have been a little dead time
- We should've ordered SEAC handbooks & maybe consumer's guides for everyone—total our fault that we forgot those [from Sewanee speakers]
- Panels and interaction with them. I think talking to experts is most helpful and should be a priority
- I think we were inside too much. We should have gone camping or hiking [from a Furman student in charge of entertainment]
- I would have enjoyed a change of location now & then or more time outside
- I think the Sustainable Development Program should have past student participants to speak

- Maybe expanding the conference in future to include other stakeholders (facilities, res. life people, etc.) with common sessions and core track, and different tracks.
- I think we should have had some kind of forum where everyone shared their ideas about each person's individual projects. Not ev1 shares the same knowledge about an issue—it would have been helpful to learn what each school's obstacles were and/or victories have been when putting together programs on recycling for example.
- It would have been helpful for each school to announce their project and then let everyone else contribute advice, ideas, possible problems
- More group exercises, less lecturing if possible
- Needed tea as well as coffee
- 8am on the weekends was a little harsh if you're not a morning person!
- I thought Saturday needed a mid-day break for naps & sensory information overload recovery. I know I completely spaced out for a part of the panel discussion.
- More structured plans could be discussed, rather than raw ideas, though they have a place
- The Saturday panel, I think should have been scheduled for when the tour was. I feel that 4-6pm is the hardest time to be attentive although I acknowledge after lunch is not much better

5. What ideas from this conference do you think you might be able to apply at your own institution?

- The entire ER program is in the process of being implemented. I also see a lot of the energy saving behaviors begin easily incorporated. One of the best ideas was to "get 'em while they're young."
- The ER program would be possible, hopefully. Also ideas about recycling that circulated were helpful.
- I really want to do the ER program; also I want to try to convince our board to make our next building LEED certified.
- Garage sale at end of school; hazardous waste drive; tire pressure info day; lots more :>
- Tire pressure; biodiesel; garage sale; batteries, etc., recycling ; local food
- I will be pushing for more small scale on campus activities. In the past, our efforts have been diluted in broader non-profits & the like
- The ER program and several others
- ER & recycling programs
- Guest lecturers. Table tents w/enviro information. Garage sale.
- Process, various goals/plans shared w/in group
- A large list including: orientation program, recycling improvements, energy monitoring, tire pressure, RA staff environmental awareness, tour guides talking about env. action, more renewable energy, parking permit price hike, & compact fluorescents in dorms
- ER program, possibly organic foods
- Pack Rat; tips on how to better run an environmental program; tire pressure gauge; campus documentary showings
- All of them
- Pack Rat; environmental group
- Poster swapping, car tire checks, weighing wasted food, and VISIBLE TRASH! (That was my favorite idea!)
- Def. the ER program and I hope we will be able to host one of these conferences or at least get some people to come talk!
- The biodiesel and smaller conservation programs
- Definitely the tire pressure thing, hopefully an ER program in some form, have the housekeep staff use less hazardous cleaning agents, implement agenda into freshman orientation

6. What was the one event or presentation that you found most inspiring?

- I enjoyed all the presentations but the Costa Rica was especially inspiring. I really thought the faculty panel was interesting.
- The circle up at the end
- The last one where we all did our pow wow!
- The panel of professors & staff
- Hearing everyone's personal inspiration; brainstorming

- The campus tour
- Yes. Dr. Allen's presentation on Costa Rica and Dr. Worthen's intro presentation
- Dr. Worthen's presentation
- The initial lecture from Dr. Worthen was great.
- Background of Sewanee's ER program
- Haley & Mary Bruce talk with breakouts
- Costa Rica summer program; biodiversity talk
- Sewanee's ER program was both inspiring and disheartening
- The circle exercise on the last day
- The Sewanee one
- I liked hearing how everyone came to environmentalism and their personal stories
- I have 2: ER presentation stuff & Costa Rica stuff
- The professor panel was very helpful
- The recap & timeline with the following group session was really effective. Hannah and I got some hard plans during that session

7. Is there anything else about which you'd like to comment?

- I would have liked to have more time just to hang out with other students. Food? I thought food was great.
- Thanks for a great time/retreat/powwow. The food was great. Vegetarians need more protein than a slice of cheese.
- Great job! Thank you so much
- Thank you for all the work!
- Nice to see recycle bins next to bfast table; the food was great! Thank you so much! Idea for future: one local or organic part of meal & can talk about ease/obstacles involved in getting that one thing. The food & service were wonderful though. I'm def. not trying to criticize.
- Food: Outstanding! Was it local and/or organic?
- Yes: everybody I met was wonderful and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing ideas and hanging out with like-minded people. I hope I get to come back to something like this even though I'm not an ACS intern. Also the food was absolutely fabulous. More importantly, the people serving the food were extremely helpful, courteous and friendly. The catering staff does a wonderful job.
- I would love to see more people from each school attend. There is too much knowledge for 1 or 2 people to take back & begin.
- Please provide note paper. ON the first night I was unable to take notes from Dr. Worthen's lecture. I missed out! Food was excellent!
- Mary Bruce & Haley did a fantastic job! Their organizational & facilitative skills are truly impressive.
- This conference was well organized and a lot of fun with a perfect balance of education & connection & inspiration. The food was awesome! Vege options were great
- Things got very touchy-feely and sometimes I felt like I was expected to express some type of divine emotion or eloquent thought on the spot. The food quality was absolutely amazing! The variety was wonderful, vegetables very fresh.
- Food was EXCELLENT! Thank you for the consideration given to vegetarians
- The food was great, perfect 10. Could of used more of it, though.
- Good job; food? fantastic
- Friday's tortellini was AWESOME! I would have liked a more substantial lunch on Saturday
- Please don't feed animals in the road, b/c it teaches them that they can trust and benefit from cars/humans—some cars don't break for critters, and lots of animals are killed this way.
- Food: I've been to many catered conferences; this food was not anything like what I was used to. The food was incredible!
- I'm so glad I went through the trouble to find outside funding for this conference and I would like students to be encouraged to find a way to get to these conferences in the future.