

Researcher: Nicholas D. Erwin, Graduate Student, nick.erwin@siu.edu

Presentation Title: Investigating Sustainability Literacy at Southern Illinois University Carbondale using the Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge (ASK) Scale

Student Level: Masters in Geography and Environmental Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA

Presentation Type: Poster Presentation

Abstract:

Investigating Sustainability Literacy at Southern Illinois University Carbondale using the Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge (ASK) Scale

To promote a more comprehensive understanding of sustainability literacy, a standardized method of assessment could be utilized across U.S. universities. This research investigates how the ASK (Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge) tool developed by Zwickle and Jones (2018) can be used to assess the current state of sustainability knowledge at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). The goal of this research is to identify an assessment process that is efficient and meaningful for SIUC in future planning and programming. This can be used when completing the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) “AC-6 Sustainability Literacy Assessment” section of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report. SIUC has a long history of student-driven sustainability activities. In the past, student surveys indicated support for green and sustainable actions on campus, but few students are actively participating in sustainability outside of the School of Earth Systems and Sustainability’s Geography Program. As the effects of climate change and class disparities become more visible, universities can assess their students’ current level of sustainability literacy to plan how to further engage them in practices that mitigate the disasters of anthropogenic climate change and classism. Though assessment is just one step in the process of encouraging students to re-envision the world, it is imperative that universities ensure that their students are experiencing growth in their knowledge and understanding of sustainability.