**Environmental Studies Program Strategic Plan**

**September 2011**

**Program Overview:**

The Environmental Studies minor draws ideas and information from a wide array of fields such as anthropology, public policy, political science, economics, geography, geology, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, biology, engineering, health science, and chemistry.

**Mission:**

The Environmental Studies minor is designed to provide a broad interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues for students in any major. Courses in the program will prepare students to develop effective, practical ways to address sustainability and environmental concerns.

**Vision**

Guided by the ideals of liberal education, the Environmental Studies program exemplifies the University and Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies mission by serving as the nexus for transformative interdisciplinary teaching, engaged learning, and exemplary scholarship for GVSU and the larger community.

The Environmental Studies Program at GVSU

* Facilitates and fosters collaborative, interdisciplinary teaching and learning about environmental and sustainability issues.
* Models inclusion and change for the university, by connecting with local, national and global communities through environmental projects and partnerships.
* Creates, promotes, and supports experiential service-learning and civic engagement opportunities.
* Encourages collaborative, interdisciplinary environmental research involving faculty and students from various departments and colleges, as well as community partners.

**Values:**

We value:

* Building communities that ensure sustainable development and environmental justice
* Interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and research
* Liberal education and academic excellence in learning, teaching, and research
* Rigorous scholarship by faculty and students as a foundation for teaching, learning, vocation, and civic life
* Diverse, innovative and effective teaching
* Assessment as a means to evaluate and improve student learning
* Culture of collegiality and collaboration
* Diversity, civic discourse, and democratic communities
* Experiential learning
* International perspectives and experiences

**Long-term Program Goals and Objectives:**

* Achieve program excellence in the Midwest
* Develop an undergraduate certificate in Food and Agricultural Studies
* Develop an undergraduate certificate in Climate Change Studies
* Develop an undergraduate certificate in Fresh Water Studies
* Develop a graduate certificate in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
* Increase partnerships with other departments and with external environmental agencies and programs
* Ensure that environmental education is a part of general education
* Increase the diversity of ENS faculty and students
* Establish a Center/Institute for Environmental Studies at GVSU
* Attract external grants to promote interdisciplinary environmental education and undergraduate research at GVSU
* Achieve reputation on campus and in Midwest as a leading center for environmental education and undergraduate research.

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| University Objective | BCOIS goal/  objective | ENS goal | ENS objective | Metric | Baseline | Time-frame | Strategy(ies) | Responsible group | Resources | Status |
| 2.1  3.3  3.5  3.6 | 2.1  2.2 | 1.Achieve program excellence in the Midwest | 1.1 Broaden ENS minor curriculum | Number of courses in ENS minor | Fall 2009  2 ENS  48 courses from other | 2010-2015 | hire more faculty | ENS faculty and ENS advisory board | New faculty  Joint appointments | In progress |
|  | 1.4 |  | 1.2 Develop opportunities for undergraduate research | Number of students involved in research projects | 2009  TBD | 2010-2015 | Attract grants  Increase baseline resources | Director and faculty | Space  Equipment  Computer lab dedicated to ENS |  |
| 3.4  3.6 | 3.4.1 | 2. Community engagement | 2.1 All ENS students will participate in service-learning and community-based research | Number of students in ENS401;  Number of internships | 2009  TBD | 2010-2015 | Create more partnerships with the local environmental organizations.  Attract service-learning grants | Director and faculty | Funding dedicated to service-learning projects,  Faculty time |  |
| 4.4  6.4 | 6 | 3. Facilitate university-wide interdisciplinary collaborative research | 3.1 Create opportunities for environmental research and problem solving projects involving faculty and students from various departments | Number of collaborative projects and initiative.  Number of interdisciplinary publications and grants | 2009  TBD | 2010-2015 | Attract more internal and external grants | All faculty involved | Internal and external funding dedicated to research |  |
|  |  |  | 3.2 Promote interdisciplinary team-teaching in ENS | Number of team-taught courses;  Number of faculty involved in team-teaching | 2009  1 team taught course.  4 faculty involved | 2010-2015 | New joint appointments | Director | Funding available to support team-teaching;  Joint appointments | In progress |
| 1.14 | 3 | 4. Establish academic leadership in environmentalsustainability on campus | 4.1 Develop robust and diverse sustainability-related curriculum in ENS | Number of courses addressing sustainability issues;  Number of students in ENS201 Environmental Studies and Sustainability; | 2009  TBD | Develop new courses, involve more faculty |  |  |  | In progress |
|  |  |  | 4.2 Involve more faculty and students in sustainability-related projects | Number of ENS student projects presented at CSW | 2009  TBD | 2010-2015 | Curriculum development | Director, faculty | Equipment, space | In progress |