



October 23, 2017

President's Waypoint: District Sustainability Plan

Last Friday, Dr. Adam Green, about 30 students, and I got to play in the dirt! Actually, we weren't playing at all, but we were working hard on a permaculture project on the West Campus. The idea of permaculture is to combine natural landscaping with an edible garden design that is sustaining. The West Campus already has some permaculture projects in the same area of the cafe that are producing tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, corn, and other good food. The vision for our permaculture efforts, with largely student knowledge, skill, and effort, is to produce food that could be given to students to help with food insecurity through the College's Food Pantry. I love how sustaining that is!



In the grand picture, this permaculture effort is a small part of our overall SBCC Sustainability Plan, which was developed back in 2014. Having re-read the plan over the weekend, I want to acknowledge all the amazing thinking and leadership of all the many people who developed the plan. It is really excellent and something of which to be very proud!! The sustainability plan has the following vision:

SBCC's vision of a sustainable and resilient campus is one that fully minimizes its environmental impact regenerating ecosystem function whenever possible, honors and strengthens a diverse and supportive community, makes economic decisions using a full and accurate accounting that includes environmental and social costs and benefits, and fully integrates the design and implementation of the plan into curriculum whenever possible.

The plan has six goals in the following areas: 1) Waste Management; 2) Energy Efficiency; 3) Water Consumption; 4) Transportation; 5) Food; and 6) Outreach and Implementation. Since 2014, the college has done many things in these areas. However, there is much more that we can and should do. We will be updating the plan and moving forward with related projects. Our environment, the ecosystem, climate change, water, sustainability, etc., are the topics of our time. These affect 100% of our students! I'm looking forward to working towards the goals of this plan!!

Together forward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony", is positioned below the text "Together forward,".