

Sustainability at Lipscomb University

by *Dodd Galbreath*

In October 2007, Lipscomb University President L. Randolph Lowry announced the establishment of the **Institute for Sustainable Practice**. Its mission is to advance the practice of sustainable living and business through community service, academic education and professional training.

One of the Institute's primary service initiatives in 2008 will be Tennessee's first Green Business Summit, **April 3-4**, on the Lipscomb campus. The summit will provide entrepreneurs, business people and trade professionals with opportunities to learn about the rapidly growing field of green business.

Noted sustainability author Paul Hawken, Economic Commissioner Matt Kisber, and Environment Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan will provide keynote addresses on Thursday, April 3. The Hawken keynote is free and open to the public but registration is required. To register for the Summit and the Hawken keynote, visit <http://sustainability.lipscomb.edu>.

Local pioneers in green business will share their experiences with conference participants in the choice of two interactive workshops on green business fundamentals and three mini-seminars on green business practices. Practitioners from Positively Green Magazine, Mars, HCA, Sodexo, Hawkins Partners, SSR Sustainability Group, Lipscomb, Vanderbilt, Bridgestone, Crescent Resources, Wilmot Inc., Rayan Solutions and others will lead highly interactive and participatory sessions. Example topics include:

- green product design
- green printing
- green housekeeping
- hybrid car fleet facts
- renewable energy options
- recycling and renewable waste management
- two green building certification and renovation case studies, and
- green industrial, manufacturing, and facility management.

During the summit, Lipscomb will host the Tennessee Green Expo from April 1-5. The Expo will be open to the public and showcase a variety of local "green" products and services. To reserve a display booth, or to sponsor the conference or Hawken address, go to <http://sustainability.lipscomb.edu>. Initial sponsors include Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Centric, SSR, Sodexo, Positively Green Magazine and McQuiddy Printing.

To define sustainability on its campus, Lipscomb will be among 93 colleges and universities across the nation selected as pilot sites for the STARS rating system. The 440-member Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) will begin the pilot as a self-examination process. It will

examine sustainability in operations, curriculum, civic engagement and financial stewardship, to name a few.

The Institute will also offer a broad curriculum in sustainability beginning in the summer of 2008. Tennessee's first Graduate Certificate in Sustainability and first "green" Master of Business Administration are currently offered. The "Sustainable Summers in Nashville" professional training curriculum will begin in June. A science based undergraduate major and generalist undergraduate minor in sustainability will be offered in the fall.

The sustainability revolution represents new hope for natural abundance, healthy living, social justice and continued prosperity. Lipscomb University seeks to join with the many leaders and institutions in our community to make Nashville and our world, a better place to live "for all children, for all species, for all time".

Dodd Galbreath is the Executive Director and Assistant Professor of Sustainability in the Institute for Sustainable Practice at Lipscomb University. Dodd.Galbreath@Lipscomb.edu. This article has been provided courtesy of the Green Living Journal, a project of the Center for Holistic Ecology and the Cumberland Green Bioregional Council.