



*Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future*

**National Wildlife Federation®**

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**Ball State University  
Muncie, Indiana  
2006, Environmental Literacy**

**BACKGROUND**

**Campus Profile**

Ball State University (BSU), situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male and 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 master's programs, and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Approximately 750 faculty members, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

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**GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Goals**

Host the sixth in a series of international conferences on Greening of the Campus.

**Accomplishments**

The conference was held September 15-17, 2005. Some 300 persons attended this sixth offering in the Greening of the Campus conference series. These attendees represented well over 106 universities as well as 20 private firms and 15 organizations from throughout North America and other parts of the world. The university continues to benefit tremendously from hosting this bi-annual gathering.

This was by far the most successful of the conferences in this multi-year series. We again had an outstanding list of keynote presenters and structured the meeting times to enable networking opportunities for attendees. The proceedings for this conference were the largest yet assembled and as before represented the full spectrum of issues facing colleges and universities as they embrace the greening of the campus movement. The conference included technical paper sessions, poster sessions, panel sessions, and workshops; we even hosted for the first time, the staging of a dance performance based on the conference theme. We continue to be fortunate in that our University's Strategic Plan explicitly notes our desire to be "a national model for all who seek intellectual vitality in a learner centered and socially responsible academic community". And as noted in our University Statement on Sustainability, we seek to foster a community that

sustains ecological systems and educates for environmental awareness, local action, and global thinking. This conference embodied these statements of intent.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

### **Leaders and Supporters**

We had the benefit of leadership by members of the same planning committee that has steered previous events. Our new President and Interim Provost worked to maintain the financial support and absorb some of the cost of this gathering. This enabled us to keep the registration fees to a modest level. Numerous articles on a daily basis were published in the local *East Central Indiana* newspaper; our own campus news bureau was very effective at posting news releases for distribution statewide. On occasion, these articles are picked up by communities throughout Indiana.

### **Funding and Resources**

A combination of in-house resources and attendee conference fees. The Office of the Provost was the primary source of internal funds; Center for Energy/Research/Education/Service provided some supplement.

### **Climate Change**

We had several workshops that discussed climate change including the Healthy Alternatives/Sustainability Choices interactive session, the Tufts Climate Initiative presentation, as well as the Energy Conservation Initiative session.

We did not provide the offset purchase option to participants directly; we did offer a ride share option to lessen impacts; see the web page for the link to that program.

The detailed listing of program content is available as a PDF file on our web page:  
<http://www.bsu.edu/greening/materials/grn6schedule.pdf>

### **National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology® program**

Reference to Campus Ecology publications such as *Ecodemia* and *State of the Campus Environment*, as well as the reports about other campus efforts in the *Campus Ecology Yearbook* continue to be touchstones in garnering support for the maintenance of this bi-annual conference offering.

## **CLOSING COMMENT**

The strengths of this bi-annual gathering were reflected in the mix of those presenting papers, participating in workshops, and attending the keynote lectures. We again had members of the full constituency of university representation, including students, faculty, administrators, professional staff, and procurement offices and facilities managers. The next conference is scheduled for September 2007.