Sustainable Communities Workshop:
Aligning Your Course with Serve-Learn-Sustain

Course Design Studio – Sustainable Communities Track
June 2, 2016
Georgia Tech’s Aspirations

**Vision:** We will be leaders in influencing major technological, social, and policy decisions that address critical global challenges.

**Mission:** We will be leaders in improving the **human condition** in Georgia, the United States, and around the globe.
What is Serve-Learn-Sustain?

SLS aims to equip our students with the knowledge and capabilities to effectively address sustainability challenges within deep understanding of societal contexts, in their professions and their civic lives.

All students will have opportunities to learn and serve around the theme “creating sustainable communities.”
Why Sustainable Communities?

“…post-graduation surveys of our students reveal that they are very satisfied with how well Georgia Tech has prepared them for the practice of their discipline. Yet the same students rate their Georgia Tech education significantly lower with regard to understanding the environmental, social, and cultural impact of their profession and working effectively in diverse teams. The Serve•Learn•Sustain Plan aims to close this gap.”

- Georgia Tech Quality Enhancement Plan (2015)
## Student Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To what extent did Georgia Tech prepare you to</th>
<th>% saying well or very well prepared</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify, formulate, solve problems in my discipline</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use techniques, skills, &amp; tools needed for the practice of my discipline</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seek out new information needed for the practice of my discipline</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understand the environmental impact of your professional practice</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the social and cultural impact of your professional practice</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effectively resolve interpersonal conflict within a group or team</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function on multi-disciplinary of cross-functional teams</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2012 Baccalaureate Alumni Survey
Critical Local-Global Challenges

Learn to work collaboratively with communities to address problems that affect the lives and well-being of countless people, such as:

- Energy and the Environment
- Water Resources
- Food Security
- Population Growth
- Global Health
- International Security

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/International/international_052200
SLS Learning Outcomes

Develop Skills & Knowledge
• Students will be able to identify relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems.
• Students will be able to describe how sustainability and community engagement relate to their civic lives and values, and how their actions impact issues of sustainability.
• Students will develop the skills necessary to work in a community different from their own, in cooperative and diverse teams, with appreciation for varied cultural and life circumstances.
• Students will be able to analyze the impact of choices on different constituencies, entities, and at different scales, including communities and the planet.

Connect to Professional Practice
• Students will be able to describe how sustainability relates to their professional practice.
• Students will be able to describe the social and cultural impact of their professional practice.

Work in Diverse Contexts
• Students will be able to create and evaluate approaches to sustainability challenges in the context of community-level needs.
• Students will be able to communicate effectively with diverse audiences around issues in creating sustainable communities and approaches to address them.

Build Long-Lasting Values and Beliefs
• Students will develop and manifest personal values and beliefs consistent with their roles as responsible members of local, national, international, and/or professional communities.
Student Entry Points

1. Build Awareness of SLS
   Extended Orientation: Engage ATL, GT-1000/Project One, Student Org Projects, Career Skills Classes, Advising, SLS Events & Activities

2. Learn the Basics of Sustainable Communities
   SLS Foundation Courses, SLS-Affiliated 3 E’s Courses

3. Connect to Professional Practice
   Coops, Internships, Service-Learning

4. Structure Deep Experiences
   Minor/Pathways, VIP, Capstone
# SLS AY2016-17 Engagement Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Audiences:</th>
<th>Faculty/Staff</th>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
<th>Undergrad Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SLS Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice Series</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Service Careers Networking Activities</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities Teaching &amp; Research:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• College-tailored Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• SLS Course Affiliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Course Development &amp; Community Engagement Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Course Implementation Mini-Grants (rolling)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Organization Collaborations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td>Fellows Program: Smart Cities</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Innovation Award</td>
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<td>X</td>
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*Note: X indicates participation in the respective category.*
# Contacts

<table>
<thead>
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Sign up for our Email List and like SLS on Facebook

http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/
serve-learn-sustain@gatech.edu
What is Sustainability? What are Sustainable Communities?

“Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report, 1987)

“Human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations” (AASHE)

“A healthy environment, a strong economy and the well-being of the people living in the community” (STAR Communities)

“A way of life that supports a flourishing society while recognizing the earth’s finite living systems of which we are a part” (Peggy Barlett, Emory)

“Just sustainabilities is …‘the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems’” (Julian Agyeman, Tufts)
What are Sustainable Communities?

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES are Environment, Economy, and Equity.
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES DEVELOP IN THE INTERSECTIONS through collaboration and decision making that brings together multiple perspectives.
Sustainable Communities
Big Ideas at Tech

**SERVE**
PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES
- Honoring Multiple Ways of Knowing
- Reciprocal Teaching & Learning
- Doing Good in Your Neighborhood
- Shared Value
- Valuing Community Impact
- Asset-based Engagement
- Long-term Relationships

**SUSTAIN**
ADAPTIVE LEARNING
- Reflection
- Cognitive Flexibility
- Long-term Visioning
- Broad-based Learning Communities

**ACTION**
- GT as Anchor Institution
- Results-based Accountability
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Local & Global Collaborative Action
- Collaborative Community Innovations

**LEARN**
METHODS
- Experimentation
- Leadership
- Community Research
- Scientific Method
- Teamwork & Facilitative Leadership
- Values-based Leadership
- Prototyping
- Understanding Local History & Context
- Design Thinking
- Ecological Footprint
- IPAT Equation
- Storytelling
- Information Visualization
- Digital Storytelling & Documentary Media
- Community Asset Mapping
- Participatory Research

**CONCEPTS**
Science & Technology
- Social, Cultural & Environmental Context
- Technology for Social Good

Urban Development
- Voice & Agency
- Democratic Process
- Participatory Processes & Civic Engagement

Governance
- Managing the Commons
- Infrastructure: Physical, Technological, Social
- Social & Environmental Determinants of Health
- Systems Thinking
- Climate Change

Equity, Justice & Diversity
- Cultural, Linguistic & Biological Diversity
- Energy Efficiency
- Lifecycle Thinking

Interconnectedness
- Equity and Climate
- Rebound Effect
- Spatiotemporal Relations

Environmental Justice
- Food-Energy-Water Nexus