

Every semester's end, we engage in expression of this practice and ask our amazing student staff to reflect on both our organization and the context of the world we live in. The questions we put to them in the form of a survey, focus-group and one-on-one meetings are two-fold and reflect the EC's mission: 1) are there any shifts we as an organization need to make to more effectively build a sustainable campus & community and 2) are we providing them with the tools, training and opportunities they need to become effective social change agents?

As we launch into the wildness that 2017 promises, our students have expressed their voice and we have listened. Here are some of their insights, and the direction they have helped inform us to move in:

- **Our Sustainability Initiatives are meeting their impact goals!** Overwhelmingly, students cited examples of ways that our work in food systems, waste, and energy are moving the needle on campus and regional sustainability and hitting our targets. However, students challenged us to up our game. Beginning this semester, you will see 1) more cross-initiative collaborations (ie. Zero Waste, meet Local Food Team!), 2) increased advocacy and policy work and 3) tackling efforts addressing community-wide and systems-change, and 4) more robust, broader-reach engagement efforts on campus and throughout our community.
- **From their work at the Environmental Center, students are expanding beyond making pro-environment changes in their personal lifestyle and habits to become committed to participating in collective actions that impact their communities, power structures and more.** To improve on our ability to graduate FLC students committed to and capable of creating a better world, the EC will more clearly articulate this in our recruiting & training materials, as well as, provide ongoing support for our alumni in the form of advertising sector employment opportunities, mentorship, and networking.
- **Students reported that they come to the Environmental Center to learn the tools for creating social and environmental change,** to gain professional skills that will serve them outside of their collegiate experience and to make a positive and measurable impact on community sustainability during their tenure in Durango. Overall, our students report that they are achieving these outcomes through our work culture that actively promotes discussion about the issues of our time, the know-how they gain through running campaign and projects, the frameworks they delve into to build out solutions to environmental problems, and the mentorship that they get from our community members and our professional staff. That said, we have some work to do here-specifically, EC professional staff will use the Summer 2017 to identify the explicit competencies and learning outcomes that our students will need to succeed in the 'outside world' and ensure that our programming, initiatives and support are designed to deliver.

As equal participants in our democracy, we invite each of you to add your voice to inform the EC as we step forward into this next year. Let us know what 'voids' you see in our young environmental leadership. Let us know what opportunities/areas we

are missing in our work. Please send your thoughts to rllandis@fortlewis.edu. We are all in this together. The people united will never be defeated.

In Gratitude,
Ree Ann ; the EC crew!