



# Corporate Sustainability Workshop Schedule

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**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

**9:30-9:35 a.m. — Welcome**

- Gillen Wood, Associate Director for Education & Outreach, iSEE

**9:35-10:20 a.m. — Keynote Address: “Sustainability in the Private Sector”**

- Harriet Hentges, President and CEO, Hentges Associates

**10:20-10:30 a.m. — Break**

**10:30-11:20 a.m. — Panel Discussion: “Corporate Sustainability: Principles and Practice”**

*Moderator Madhu Khanna, Professor of Agricultural & Consumer Economics and iSEE Interim Director*

- Holly Emerson, Global Senior Director of the Global Sustainability team, Johnson Controls
- Pedro Leon de la Barra, Project Manager, Sol Customer Solutions
- Stu Levenick, Retired Group President, Caterpillar Inc.
- Chris O'Brien, Director of Business Development, CustomerFirst Renewables

**11:20-11:50 a.m. — Networking Event**

*Participants can network and have more in-depth conversations with the panelists.*

**11:50 a.m.-noon — Program Transition**

**Noon-1 p.m. — Working Lunch Session**

*Representatives from The Career Center will be available to provide feedback on the resumes and elevator pitches of students in five-minute meetings. Students can also use the remaining time as a break before the career fair.*

**1-2 p.m. — Green Career Fair**

*Recruiters from 10 sustainability-oriented organizations will be available to network with students and promote possible internship or full-time opportunities at their organizations.*



## Our Keynote Speaker

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Keynote Address — “Sustainability in the Private Sector”

### Harriet Hentges



**Bio:** Hentges is President and CEO of Hentges Associates, an advisor to business and nonprofit organizations to accelerate sustainability/corporate responsibility in the retail, consumer goods and tourism industries. Hentges has been on the sustainability leadership teams of two of the top food five food retailers in the U.S. — Walmart and Ahold Delhaize (formerly Ahold USA). She was on the first sustainability team at Walmart, and she crafted and directed the sustainability strategy for Ahold USA.

Hentges served on the Food Marketing Institute’s Sustainability Executive Committee, a pre-competitive collaboration of sustainability leaders of some 25 U.S. grocery chains. She also held an executive position at Sears World Trade, and was a partner in Hentges, Kahn & Strauss (HKS) LLC, an advisory firm to food and agribusiness industries aimed at fostering a sustainable food system from soil to shelf. She is currently a partner in the Sustainable Tourism Group, an investment firm developing sustainable tourism projects in Rwanda and other East African countries.

Hentges’ management experience is diverse as COO of the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the U.S. League of Women Voters, among other institutions. Government service includes the U.S. Special Trade Representative’s Office and the U.S. Department State. She is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service and is an independent director of Bio Hitech Global, a NASDAQ-traded, high-tech solutions company for food waste. She has a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, a masters’ degree from American University, and a BA from St. Catherine University.



## Our Panelists

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Panel Discussion — “Corporate Sustainability: Principles and Practice”

### Holly Emerson



**Bio:** Emerson is the global senior director of the Global Sustainability team at Johnson Controls. She is responsible for the continuous development and execution of the company’s sustainability strategy, managing sustainability reporting, and providing purposeful, data-driven leadership support to internal teams and stakeholders.

Prior to joining Johnson Controls, Emerson served as a senior sustainability analyst for Ingersoll Rand, where, most notably, she managed the development and implementation of an industry-unique greenhouse gas calculator to measure company progress toward their corporate climate commitment. She also worked with Trane Technologies as the enterprise climate impact leader, leading the company’s national and state-level renewable energy strategies.

Emerson graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and Applied Science with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. She received her Master of Business Administration from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business.



## Our Panelists

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Panel Discussion — “Corporate Sustainability: Principles and Practice”

### Pedro Leon de la Barra



**Bio:** de la Barra manages contracting, design, execution, and delivery for commercial DG solar projects in the 1 – 12 MW size range for Sol Customer Solutions, a joint venture between Sol Systems and Capital Dynamics.

Prior to Sol, he was a project manager at New Columbia Solar, where he successfully led development and construction of 4 MW of rooftop, canopy, and ground mount solar projects in Washington, D.C. Before that, he worked as international business development executive for the utility software provider Opower, and also served as advisor to the chief executive officer at the Mexican national electric utility CFE.

de la Barra holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and an MBA from Yale School of Management.



## Our Panelists

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Panel Discussion — “Corporate Sustainability: Principles and Practice”

### Stuart L. Levenick



**Bio:** Levenick is a recently retired group president of Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Ill. During his 10 years as a member of Caterpillar’s Executive Office, he managed global businesses spanning marketing, manufacturing operations, engineering, supply chain, procurement and human resources.

Levenick graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry and is a Sloan Fellow with a Master of Science degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is a member of the Board of Directors and Lead Director of Entergy Corp., New Orleans, La.; and a member of the Board of Directors, Lead Director and Board Affairs and Nominating Committee Chair of W.W. Grainger, Inc., Lake Forest, Ill.; among other institutions. His past experience includes Executive Board Member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Director of the U.S. China Business Council; Director of the U.S. Russia Business Council; and Executive Director and Chairman of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.

While attending the University of Illinois, Levenick was a walk-on football player who was named team captain, Offensive MVP, and earned All-Big Ten honors. He was selected in the 1976 NFL draft. He was inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 and was awarded the University of Illinois Varsity “I” Lifetime Achievement award in 2014. He was a recipient of the College of ACES Career Achievement Award in 2018.



## Our Panelists

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Panel Discussion — “Corporate Sustainability: Principles and Practice”

### Chris O’Brien



**Bio:** O’Brien is Director of Business Development at CustomerFirst Renewables, where he leads business outreach and solution delivery efforts with a focus on the higher education market. He brings more than 20 years of energy, sustainability, and strategic advisory services including as Director of Sustainability at American University, where he led participation in the CFR-facilitated 53 MW Capital Partners Solar Project. Chris also previously served as Director of Higher Education Programs at Edison Energy.

In his side career/hobby in the beer industry, he authored the award-winning book *Fermenting Revolution: How to Drink Beer and Save the World*.



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**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

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and Environment (iSEE)**

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## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair



Sun Tribe





## Our Organizations

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Green Career Fair

### Brunswick i-Jet Lab

BRUNSWICK



**Description:** Brunswick Corp. is an innovative company focused on improving experiences within the recreational boating space. Brunswick is host to some of the most notable brands within the field, including boat brands such as Sea Ray, Boston Whaler and Bayliner, while also developing a range of innovations in parts and engines with Mercury Marine. As the innovative branch of Brunswick, i-Jet Lab works closely with a cross-functional leadership team to identify opportunities for improvement and new technologies. We think in the long term to anticipate future trends in order to adapt and utilize the newest technologies. At i-Jet, we're paving the path for our company to extend its leadership the marine industry with innovative and modern solutions and experiences.

**Website:** <https://ijetlab.com/about>





## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair

## Dayempur Herbals and Dayempur Farm



**Description:** Dayempur Herbals has been making and selling natural herbal remedies since 2007. We grow our own Certified Naturally Grown herbs, purchase organic herbs and ingredients from local and known sources, and use traditional methods to handcraft tinctures/liquid extracts, infused oils, salves, syrups and sprays. Our medicinal herb garden is at our farm in Anna, Ill., Dayempur Farm, and our production facility and offices are based in Carbondale, Ill. We sell online, attend many local events and our products are on the shelves of natural/health food and grocery stores across the country.

**Website:** Visit [this link](#) for more information about Dayempur Herbals.



**Description:** Dayempur farm is the land-based project of the Dayemi Tariqat, a 501(c)3 non-profit, Sufi community, located adjacent to the beautiful Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. The word “Dayempur” means an ancient or eternal place. Though we refer to Dayempur as a “farm,” it is really so much more. Dayempur Farm is a model of sustainable and holistic living that supports spiritual growth, community development, organic agriculture, eco-building and renewable energy.

**Internship Opportunities:** Check out [this flier](#) for more information about internships.

**Website:** Visit [this link](#) for more information about Dayempur Farm.



## Our Organizations

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Green Career Fair

### Para La Tierra



**Description:** Para La Tierra is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of fragile habitats and species in Paraguay through scientific research, community engagement and environmental education, while inspiring the next generation of conservationists. Over the last 10 years, we have hosted over 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to conduct ecological research with us, each of whom have made a tangible contribution to research in Paraguay. From project design to execution, students are in the driver's seat, and learn all the necessary skills to kickstart their career in conservation. We invite students to join us in a one in a lifetime experience and discover Paraguay's unique wildlife!

**Internship Opportunities:** Para La Tierra is offering internship opportunities in Primate Behavior Research, as well as Tropical Ecology Research in Paraguay. We are also searching for talented and hardworking research interns to take part in our remote internship program. Visit the website below for more information about our remote and field internships!

**Website:** <https://www.paralatierra.org/>



## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair

## Resource Environmental Solutions



**Description:** With roots as a pioneer of environmental mitigation, RES enters our second decade as the nation's largest fully-scaled operating company providing ecological restoration and water resource solutions.

RES serves public and private sector clients with full-delivery, land-based projects that build natural resiliency into ecosystems. Whether it's designing resilience to surging stormwater using green architecture, or making sure a watershed retains its ecosystem services via a wetlands mitigation, we work every day to protect the essential elements of nature while promoting responsible human progress.

We act as stewards of those ecosystems on behalf of our clients, who share our vision of both robust environmental outcomes and streamlined project costs and timelines.

**Employment Opportunities:** Visit [this link](#) for employment opportunities at RES. You can also check [this link](#) for open positions at Applied Ecological Services, an organization recently acquired by RES.

**Website:** <https://res.us/>



## Our Organizations

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**Green Career Fair**

### **Sol Systems**



**Description:** Sol Systems is a national solar energy finance and development firm delivering sophisticated customized services to a diverse customer, investor, and partner base.

Over the last 12 years, Sol Systems has financed or developed over \$2 billion in solar energy assets to date and has delivered over 1 GW of solar projects for Fortune 100 companies, municipalities, universities, churches, and small businesses. As a leading renewable energy developer, financier, trader and operator, Sol empowers organizations and entrepreneurs to have a meaningful impact on the world with a focus on catalyzing the development and operation of sustainable infrastructure.

**Website:** <https://www.solsystems.com/>



## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair

### Sun Tribe



Sun Tribe

**Description:** With nearly 80 employees, over 100 projects completed or under development, and an award-winning track record of innovation and implementation, Sun Tribe is one of the fastest growing clean energy companies in the Mid-Atlantic United States. Thanks to an experienced, in-house team of development, engineering, financial, regulatory, procurement, and construction experts, Sun Tribe serves as a comprehensive energy advisory and delivery company for our client-partners.

Whether building the first solar array to sit on an abandoned coal mine in Virginia's history, powering the first 100 percent solar school district east of the Mississippi, installing solar on flagship state government buildings, or working with Fortune 200 companies to help meet their sustainability goals, Sun Tribe specializes in creating a brighter energy future through long-lasting, sustainable partnerships.

Sun Tribe is home to two thriving companies: Sun Tribe Solar (on-site solutions) and Sun Tribe Development (utility-scale solutions). Sun Tribe is headquartered in Charlottesville, Va.

**Website:** <https://suntribesolar.com/>



## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair

## The Nature Conservancy



**Description:** The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. Founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951, The Nature Conservancy has grown to become one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. Thanks to more than a million members and the dedicated efforts of our diverse staff and over 400 scientists, we impact conservation in 72 countries and territories: 38 by direct conservation impact and 34 through partners.

Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

**Employment Opportunities:** The Nature Conservancy is currently looking for Kankakee Sand Field Technicians to carry out preserve operations at the Kankakee Sands Macrosite in Morocco, Indiana. Visit [this link](#) for more details on our open positions.

**Website:** <https://www.nature.org/en-us/>



## Our Organizations

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Green Career Fair

### Waterborne Environmental



**WATERBORNE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

**Description:** Waterborne Environmental, Inc. is a renowned global consulting firm that has provided innovative solutions to complex environmental, ecological, and human risk problems since our founding in 1993. Today, our work takes us across a wide range of industries and regulatory agencies. Our scientific and engineering projects typically contribute to overall risk assessment, but our technical specialties include: field studies and data solutions, environmental modeling, ecotoxicology and toxicology support, geospatial analysis and data science, statistics and data analysis, and literature review and technical writing. We are known for innovative science, unbiased results, and a global reach.

**Website:** <https://www.waterborne-env.com/>



## Our Organizations

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Green Career Fair

### WWOOF-USA



**Description:** Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms, USA (WWOOF-USA®) is part of a worldwide effort to link visitors with organic farmers, promote an educational exchange, and build a global community conscious of ecological farming practices.

Visitors, or “WWOOFers,” spend about half of each day helping out on a farm, learn about organic agriculture, and receive free room and board during their visit.

**Membership:** Visit [this link](#) to learn more about our membership program.

**Website:** <https://wwoofusa.org/>





## Our Organizations

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### Green Career Fair

## Illinois Professional Science Master's



Illinois Professional Science Master's

**Description:** The Illinois Professional Science Master's program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is an 18-month, non-thesis degree program that is designed for the changing needs of today's job market.

By combining core courses in an area of scientific expertise with a business curriculum, industry seminars, and a summer internship, the Illinois PSM prepares students for positions in business, industry and government, as well as entrepreneurship.

Majors with sustainability components are:

- ***Agricultural Production*** – an advanced interdisciplinary program in science and agribusiness with food animal production, crop production, and sustainable production systems specializations
- ***Bioprocessing & Bioenergy*** – bridges science and business to help meet the demand for sustainable bio-based processing and energy with specializations in plants, soils, and feedstocks; production, processing and use; and more
- ***Technical Systems Management*** – a program focused on the application of physical and natural sciences to solve the world's most pressing agricultural and biological technical systems problems

**Graduate Degree Opportunities:** Interested in a graduate degree with a sustainability component? Consider the Illinois Professional Science Master's program. Applications are still being accepted for fall. Visit the website below for more information!

**Website:** <https://psm.illinois.edu/>