



Executive Summary

Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) is one of five educational institutions of Mennonite Church USA. The institution is a leader among faith-based universities emphasizing peacebuilding, creation care, experiential learning, service and cross-cultural engagement. EMU has developed the Quality Enhancement Plan around the topic of sustainability. This project, entitled *Peace with Creation: Sustainability from an Anabaptist Perspective*, is firmly grounded in EMU's mission and values, has broad support from university leaders and stakeholders, and has a strong focus on student learning.

Through the QEP, EMU hopes to 1) strengthen our care for God's creation by enhancing our sustainability knowledge, values, and actions; and 2) increase sustainable practices at the University. Five student learning outcomes are aligned with the first overarching goal and will be implemented throughout the undergraduate curriculum. Specifically, curricular integration will occur in selected courses of the general education program as well as in required courses in each academic major. The following principles provide the framework for sustainability education and will be the basis for integrating sustainability into the EMU curriculum (see Cortese, 2005):

- the health of all current and future humans and other species;
- the fairness, equity, stability and security of human cultures and social systems;
- economic opportunity for all current and future humans; and
- ecological diversity and integrity.

The second overarching goal of the project will be implemented through the institutional effectiveness process as each university department will develop an outcome related to sustainable practices. We envision outcomes such as increased participation in campus sustainability projects and events, improved management of waste or resources, and enhanced community partnerships around sustainability issues.

The QEP Implementation Team will provide an oversight and administrative role for the project. Specifically, the Team will offer scholarly resources for curricular integration and yearly workshops for professional development in the areas of sustainability in higher education and assessment of the QEP student learning outcomes. In addition, the Team will collect, analyze, and evaluate assessment data, devising and implementing improvements when necessary.

For information about the development and implementation of *Peace with Creation* at EMU, contact Dr. BJ Miller, Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness, at bj.miller@emu.edu or (540)432-4304.