



**WORKING TOWARD a
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | LIVE GREEN!

Speaker Biographies

2016 Symposium on Sustainability:

One World, Green World: Embracing our Collective Connections toward a Legacy of Sustainability

Keynote Lecture –

David W. Orr – Professor, Counselor to the President

David W. Orr, a professor of environmental studies at Oberlin College, is a leader in the sustainability movement and known for his pioneering work on environmental literacy and ecological design. Orr is a counselor to the president at Oberlin College and the Stephan Minter Fellow at the Cleveland Foundation. He has authored more than seven books, including *Down to the Wire*; *The Last Refuge*; *The Nature of Design*; *Earth in Mind*; and *Ecological Literacy*; and is the coeditor of *Hope is an Imperative*.

In an influential article in the Chronicle of Higher Education 2000 Orr proposed the goal of carbon neutrality for colleges and universities and subsequently organized and funded an effort to define a carbon neutral plan for his own campus. He also organized the effort to design the first substantially green building on a U.S. college campus.

Presentation of the Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability

Merry Rankin, Director of Sustainability, Iowa State University

Merry Rankin has served as Iowa State University's Director of Sustainability since 2009. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating sustainability (greening) activities at Iowa State University and serving as a central resource related to sustainability collaboration and information. Merry also serves as Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Ames. She has a Bachelor's of Science in General Business and Master of Science in Wildlife Biology, both from Iowa State University. Merry was included in the 2014 calendar of Women Impacting Iowa State University and received the Student Organization Adviser of the Year Award in 2012. She also received the Governor's Volunteer Award in 2015.

Kerry Dixon, Coordinator of Sustainable Design and Construction, Facilities Planning and Management

Kerry has been with Facilities Planning and Management at Iowa State since 1995, and serves as the Coordinator of Sustainable Design and Construction in addition to her role as a capital projects manager. Kerry managed ISU's first LEED project – the renovation of Morrill Hall, ISU's first LEED Platinum project – the King Pavilion at the College of Design; and ISU's first LEED for Commercial Interiors projects – Curtiss Hall Harl Commons and Curtiss Hall Student Services Mall. Kerry has a Bachelor's of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame. In

2013 she received the Live Green! Award for Excellence in Sustainability, with Ulrike Passe, for their work with the USGBC Research to Practice Program on the ISU Campus. She also received the 2012 Iowa State University Professional and Scientific Excellence Award.

Documentary Screening and Discussion

Jordan Muell, Director of Sustainability, Government of the Student Body

Jordan Muell is a senior in majoring in Agricultural Engineering, with a focus in Land and Water Resources, and a minor in Sustainability. He currently serves as the Student Government Director of Sustainability, following several years of involvement in student organizations including serving as President of The Green Umbrella and Project Lead for the Iowa State Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter. Jordan seeks to build a career facing global water security challenges; he plans to pursue a Master's degree in Water Resources Engineering following graduation and hopes to become a licensed Professional Engineer one day.

Megan Koppenhafer, President, The Green Umbrella

Megan Koppenhafer is a junior in Environmental Science and Community and Regional Planning with a focus in environmental justice. She is currently serving as the president of The Green Umbrella and has been involved with the club for three years in total. She has previously been involved with the residential living sustainability club on campus, The GreenHouse Group. Megan intends to work with a non-governmental organization working with environmental justice issues in urban areas or sustainable agriculture in rural areas.