

SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABILITY

2021 Symposium on Sustainability United for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Public Lecture | The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice

Dr. Robert Bullard



Dr. Robert D. Bullard is often described as the father of environmental justice. He is the former Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University and currently serves as a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy. Prior to coming to TSU, Dr. Bullard was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He is co-founder of the HBCU Climate Change Consortium. And last year, was awarded the United Nations 2020 Champions of the Earth Achievement Award.

Dr. Bullard is an award-winning author of eighteen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, and community resilience, smart growth, and regional equity. He received his Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University and is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Presentation of the Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability

Merry Rankin, Director of Sustainability at Iowa State University



Merry Rankin is Iowa State University's inaugural Director of Sustainability, responsible for coordinating Iowa State University's sustainability initiatives. Through a partnership with the City of Ames, she also assists in the facilitation of community sustainability planning and implementation. Prior to coming to ISU, Rankin worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, working with the Recycling Technical Assistance Team and overseeing the Department's statewide volunteer program - Keepers of the Land, and also Iowa State University Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Service.

Merry has a B.S. in General Business and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology, both from Iowa State University and has completed international environmental human dimensions research in India, Costa Rica, Australia and South Africa. Outside of work, Merry serves on the Board of Directors for Worldly Goods and Wheatsfield Cooperative.

Jennifer Seth, Director of Sustainability, Iowa State University Student Government



Jennifer Seth, a Senior in Environmental Science with minors in Spanish and Meteorology, serves as the 2020-2021 Sustainability Director for the Iowa State University Student Government.

“I want students to know that sustainability isn’t and shouldn’t be an ‘extra’ thing. Sustainability is so much more complicated than just recycling your disposable water bottle or not using a straw; it has deep economic and social implications, and so many other societal issues we face are inherently tied to sustainability [...] in order to build a better world for ourselves and those who come after us, it is imperative that we think every day about the choices we make and whether or not they are sustainable, in order to unlearn these behaviors that have been reinforced for years.”