



# Regional Centers of Expertise (RCEs) as a model for Education for Sustainable Development

Introducing the RCE Americas Online Course (Feb to May)  
Localizing the UN SDGs through Education, Training and Regional  
Collaboration

# Agenda

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- Welcome
- Introduction of Speakers
- Overview of the RCE Model by Roger Petry
- Presentation by RCEs- establishment, SDG focus and some highlights
- Learning Cohort Details <https://bit.ly/3XcYDQ8>
- February 14: Optional pre-event networking
- Certificate of Participation Provided

*Note: All webinars will be recorded*

# Presenters

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# RCE Mission and Vision



2002: UN General Assembly adopts resolution for *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development* (UNDESD 2005-2014)

2003: *United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability* (UNU-IAS) launches global network of Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)

UNESCO [ESD for 2030 Roadmap](#) five priority action areas: advancing policy, transforming learning environments, building capacities of educators, empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating local level actions

-RCEs play a crucial role, esp. re. 5<sup>th</sup> goal

As of January 2022: 180 RCEs acknowledge by UNU, 27 in Americas



We are increasingly asking if what people learn is truly relevant to their lives, if what they learn helps to ensure the survival of our planet. Education for Sustainable Development can provide the knowledge, awareness and action that empower people to transform themselves and transform societies.

- Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO



# Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development



RCEs around the world

[www.rcenetwork.org](http://www.rcenetwork.org)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# SDG 4.7: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

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## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



**Goal 4** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

**4.7** - By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others **through education for sustainable development** and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

# United Nations University

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The United Nations University:

-est. 1972 by UN General Assembly

-a global think tank and a research institute for UN organizations

-headquartered in Japan

<https://unu.edu/>

*Mission: Contribute, through collaborative research and education, to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations.*



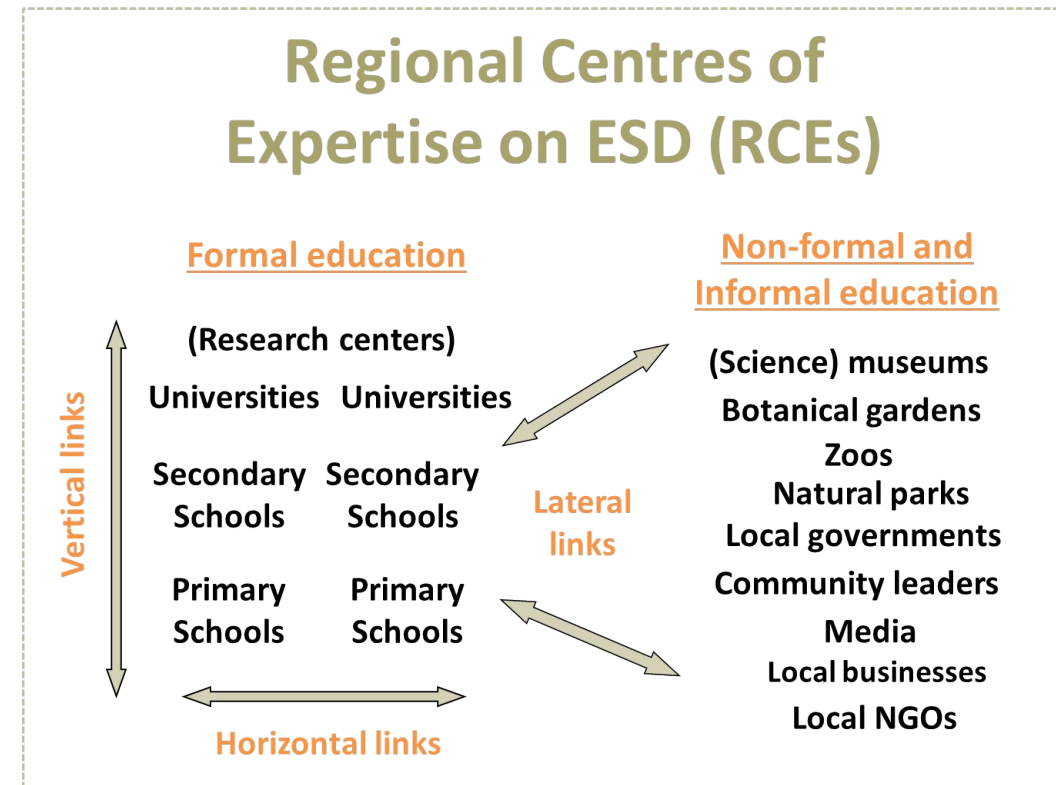
# Regional Centers of Expertise for Education on Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD Program established at UNU-IAS for UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014)

RCEs are *networks of individuals and formal, non-formal, and informal organizations and institutions that facilitate ESD in local and regional communities, through education, training, and public awareness to build a sustainable future.*

Focus on regional challenges, needs, and resources.

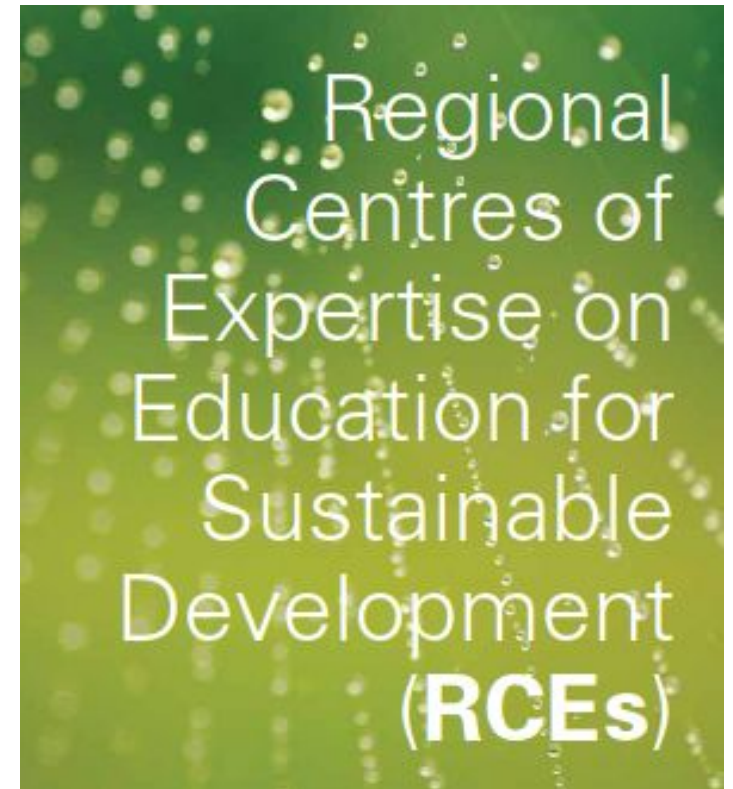
“Think globally, act locally.”



# Innovative Features of RCEs

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RCEs as self-sustaining entities  
Mobilize new scholarship through  
volunteerism  
Combine formal scholars with sustainability  
practitioners in communities  
A whole-of-region approach: region as a  
“living laboratory”  
Enjoy institutional standing as HEI (with  
academic freedom) and UN related entity



# Becoming a Regional Centre of Expertise

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**RCEs develop proposal:** define region & regional SD issues, RCE vision, governance model, partners/collaborators (including at least 1 university), resources/finances

- **January:** UNU open call for applications
- **May:** submission of first draft
- **June:** comments from Global RCE Service Centre and Peer Reviewers
- **September:** Final application and summary
- **December:** Review by Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs
- **January:** Announcement of UNU RCE Acknowledgement

## 2022 RCE APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE: 15 MAY, 2022





# How can ESD and RCE's help regional efforts?

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Map existing sustainability organizations

Highlight pool of experts from different fields

Synergize regional partnerships

Expand and engage beyond silos

Identify and align with initiatives

Leverage resources

Develop sustainability curriculum

Increase trainings and public awareness

Build leadership and volunteer opportunities

Welcome diverse voices on critical issues

Facilitate change and create collective impact

# Inter-regional and Global RCE Opportunities

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UNU RCE Project Portal

Global RCE Awards Program

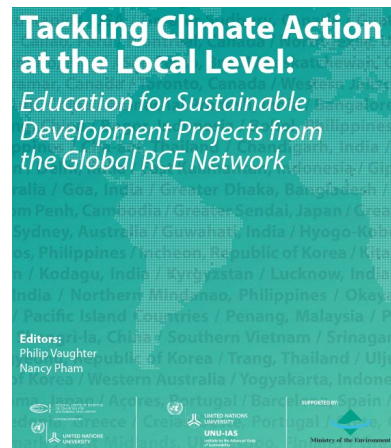
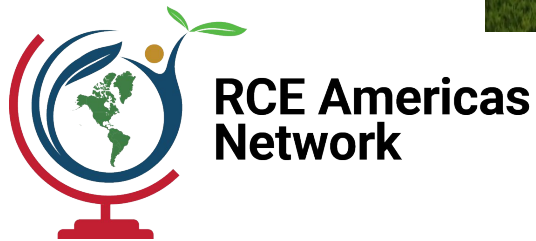
Monthly RCE E-Bulletin

Annual RCE Americas Meetings

Bi-annual Global RCE Conferences

Global RCE Publications

Invitation to Support UN Initiatives



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# RCE North Texas



RCE  
North Texas

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MEGHNA TARE

Chief Sustainability Officer, University of Texas at Arlington

Founder and Director, RCE North Texas & North Texas Food Policy Alliance

Email: [mtare@uta.edu](mailto:mtare@uta.edu)

# RCE North Texas

(Launched April 2019-UT Arlington and UT Dallas)

<https://sustainability.uta.edu/rce/>

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Strategic Planning

SWOT Analysis to decide on the SDG focus



# Program and Projects

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- Trinity River Report Card
- Sustainable Cities Challenge
- North Texas Food Policy Alliance
- Strategic Planning
- Host annual summit and conferences
- Dashboard for Food System Resources
- Service Learning
- Youth Network



**NORTH TEXAS**  
**Food Policy Alliance**

**THE SUSTAINABLE AGE STUDENT JOURNAL**

**Who we are...**

A journal rooted in sustainability.  
By students, for students.

We are organized around the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. As such, we are a global organization, with student writers from across the world. Our articles advocate for more equitable and responsible choices at both the individual and international scale.

**Learn more...**

- [@thesustainableage](#)  
Follow our Instagram for live discussions and new article notifications.
- [thesustainableage.com](#)  
Check out the collection of articles on our website and read about becoming a writer!
- [@sustainableage](#)  
Follow our Twitter for updates on upcoming events and articles

An affiliate of...

[rcenetwork.org](#)





# RCE Georgetown: Localizing the Goals in SC



**RISE:** Resilience Innovation and Sustainability



FRANCES P. BUNNELLE  
*foundation*

SUSTAIN <sup>SC</sup>  
commerce + conservation

through Education



SIXAXIS  
MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES



North Inlet - Winyah Bay  
National Estuarine  
Research Reserve



## Our 3 pillars:

- Community Engaged Research
- Youth Corps Paid Internship Program
- SDG Study in SC



## SDG Framework



**SUSTAIN<sup>7</sup>SC**  
commerce + conservation

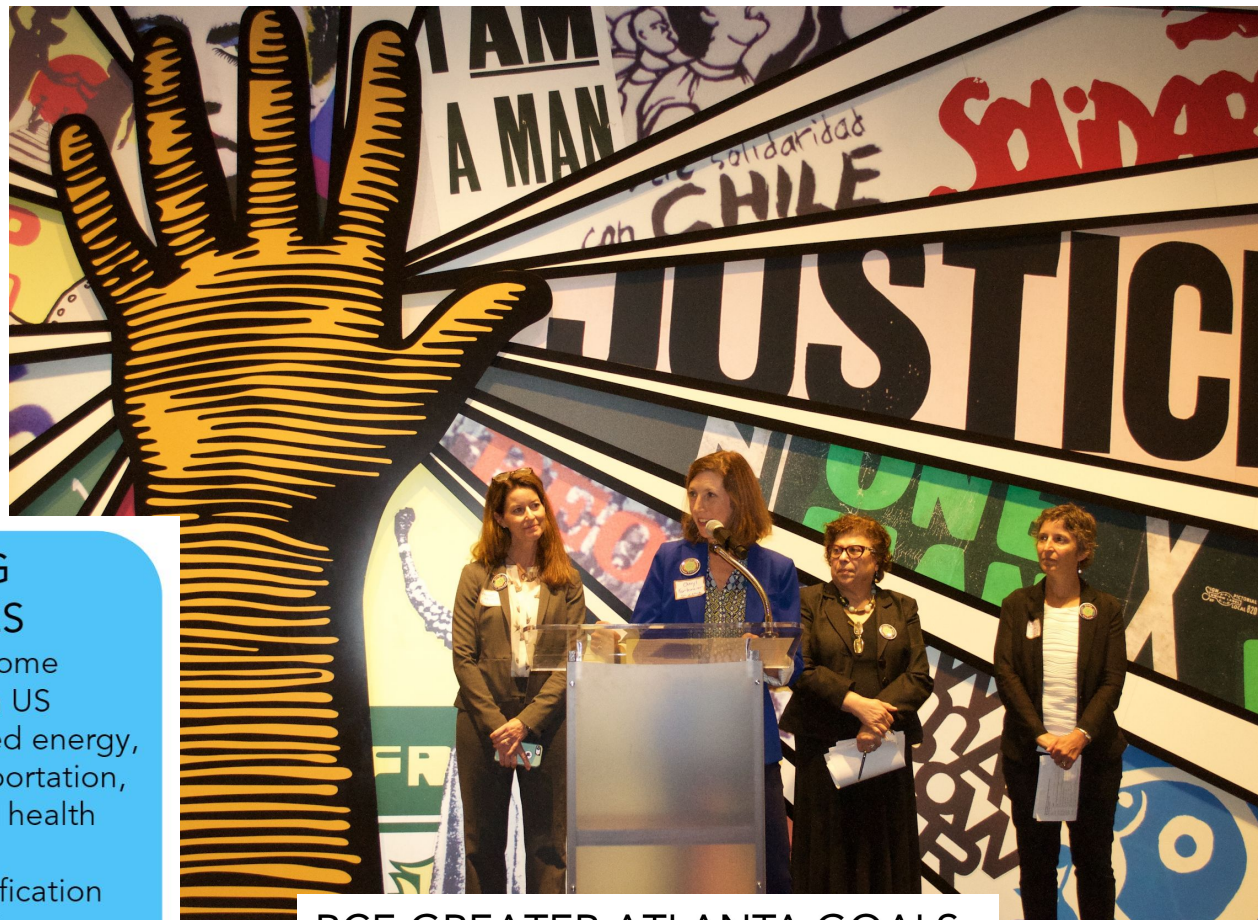
- 60% of members report on SDGs
- 60% report to CDP on Climate Change; 35% to CDP Water or Forest



**RCE**  
GREATER ATLANTA

<https://rcega.org/>

Formed in 2017



RCE GREATER ATLANTA GOALS

**ABUNDANT ASSETS**

- Strong community sustainability leadership
- Civil rights history
- Higher ed/HBCUs
- Corporate HQs & Logistics, Fintech, Entertain. industries
- International NGOs

GLOBALLY-RECOGNIZED  
REGIONALLY-RELEVANT  
CROSS-SECTOR

**RCE NETWORK AS  
BRIDGE**



**CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY &  
CLIMATE CHANGE URGENCY**

**CRIPPLING INEQUITIES**

- Greatest income disparities in US
- Compounded energy, water, transportation, housing and health burdens
- Rapid gentrification
- **TOO MANY** vulnerable left behind

Advance  
Greater SDG  
Knowledge &  
Action



Model  
Inclusive &  
Collaborative  
Community



Nurture  
Strong  
Youth  
Leadership



# Advance Greater SDG Knowledge & Action



# The Inaugural Annual Atlanta Global Studies Symposium

UN Sustainable Development Goals in Education,  
Research, and Community Engagement

April 25-27, 2019

**Thursday, April 25**

**Keynote Lecture and Reception. 4 - 6 p.m.**

"Innovative Finance for Sustaining Peace in the Middle East and Beyond: Lessons from Public Health for the Millennium Development Goals," with Pardis Mahdavi, Acting Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

**Friday, April 26**

**Parallel Sessions. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**TRACK I. Transforming Education and Society through University-Community Partnerships**

**TRACK II. Teaching and Learning in Global Studies**

**TRACK III. Global Connections: Inequality and Interchange**

**TRACK IV. Translating Sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa**

**TRACK V. Challenges in Development: A Global-Local Perspective**

**Saturday, April 27**

**K-12 Professional Development Workshop. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Addressing the UN's Sustainability Goals as they relate to the teaching of world cultures, social studies, and foreign languages in collaboration with the Georgia Tech Global Media Fest.

Bill Moore Student Success  
Georgia Tech campus

Annual RCE Track at the AGS  
Symposium

ation or to register:  
edu

All events are free and open to the public.



**Atlanta Global Studies Center**

Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech  
College of Arts & Sciences at Georgia State University



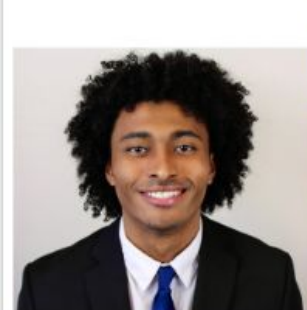
Model  
Inclusive &  
Collaborative  
Community



# Building an Intergenerational, Multiracial Network that Elevates Grassroots Voices



# Nurture Strong Youth Leadership





Learn More and Get Involved at

[rcega.org](https://rcega.org)



# Sustainable Shenandoah Valley RCE

Carol Lena Miller  
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, USA

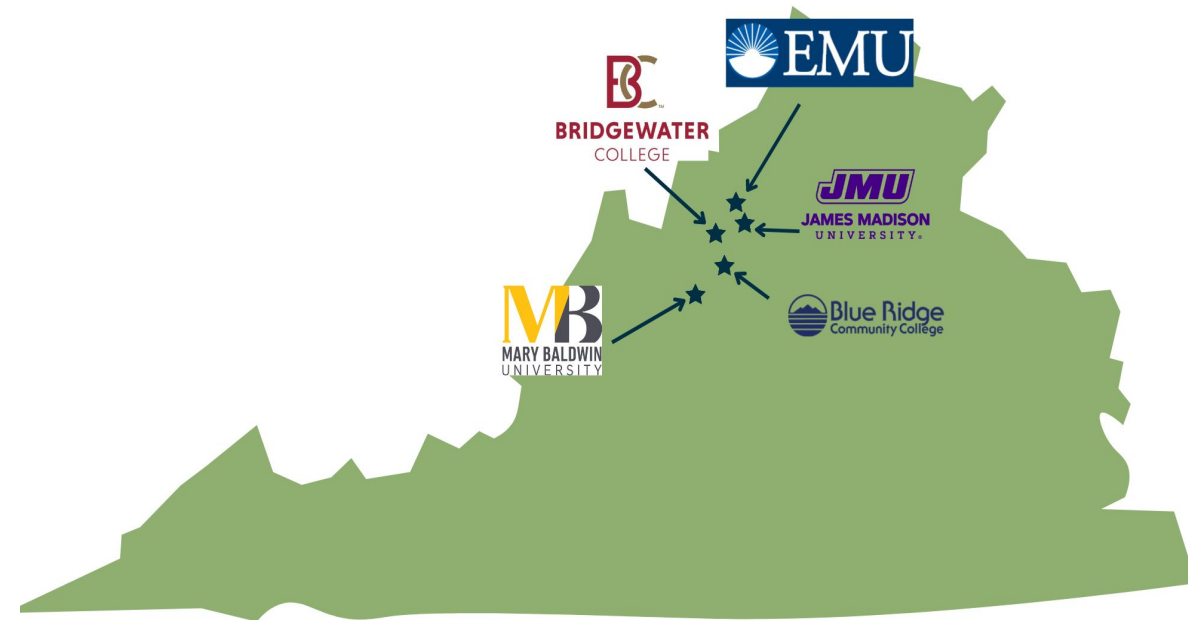


# Sustainable Shenandoah Valley

*A sustainable Shenandoah Valley preserves and enhances our unique educational, social, environmental, and economic resources to ensure the future well-being of Valley residents*

RCE Application approved in 2013

- A collaboration of regional institutions of higher education including four 4-year colleges and one community college
- After receiving RCE approval, several years were spent developing a working structure, strategic plan, and by-laws, and obtaining MOU approval from partner institutions
- Primary foci for Sustainable Shenandoah Valley:
  - Convene diverse sustainability-related entities throughout central Shenandoah Valley
  - Mobilize regional higher ed resources and empower youth
  - Amplify existing initiatives
  - Facilitate and promote connections to SDGs



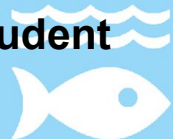
# SSV Signature Events

- The Student Sustainability Summit
- Sustainable Development in Action



Convene Valley students, faculty members, community activists, and local gov't representatives.

Events and community engagement activities promote SDG awareness and promote student leadership.





Launched January 2020

- [rcepuertorico@gmail.com](mailto:rcepuertorico@gmail.com)
- <https://sites.google.com/view/rcepuertorico/>





UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Puerto Rico Chapter

RCE Puerto Rico-REDeS Members & Collaborators



Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO



Learning 2B Global EMPOWER YOUR ACTION



CORAZÓN LATINO



UNIVERSIDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PUERTO RICO



UNIVERSIDAD ANA G. MÉNDEZ

UAGM

Recinto de Cupey

Multi-sector collaborations



- Educate and raise public awareness about sustainability and resilience concepts, and their relationship with social, economic, and environmental well-being.
- Promote the sustainable management and conservation of natural and cultural resources and the goods and services they provide society.
- Strengthen food, energy and drinking water security via sustainable economic development.



Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras  
Facultad de Educación  
Departamento de Programa y Enseñanza



# Localizing the UN SDGs through Education, Training and Regional Collaboration

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**REGISTER AT: <https://www.aashe.org/calendar/advancing-sdgs/>**

This course will meet virtually five times on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. ET between February and May on these dates: February 21, March 21, April 4, April 25, and May 9.

Universities and colleges around the world are making commitments to advance the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) through their teaching, research, operations, and partnerships. One proven model for making good on this commitment is to establish a United Nations-affiliated RCE network. RCEs – Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – are regional multi-stakeholder networks, grounded in higher education, that advance the SDGs through education and training. RCEs are proliferating, with over 180 networks around the world, including 27 in the Americas.

In this cohort-based course, leaders from RCE networks from the U.S. and Canada will share experiences, case studies, and lessons learned on how universities and colleges can help lead multi-stakeholder collaborations that localize and advance the SDGs in their regions.

Networking Webinar on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

Certificates of Participation provided

# Concluding Remarks

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# Stay engaged with RCE Americas!

Join the RCE Americas Network on Social Media:

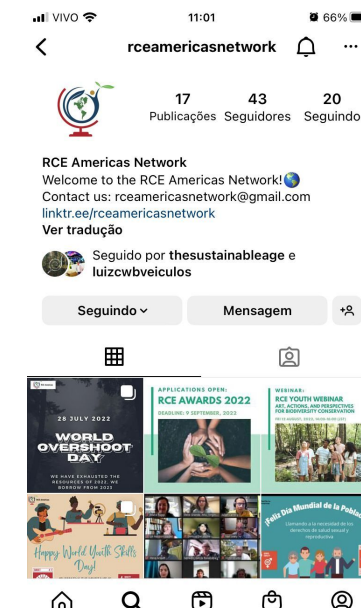
- <https://www.facebook.com/rceamericas>
- Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/438962353110897>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rceamericasnetwork>
- <https://www.instagram.com/rceamericasnetwork>
- [www.youtube.com/rceamericasnetwork](http://www.youtube.com/rceamericasnetwork)
- [www.youtube.com/rceamericasnetwork](http://www.youtube.com/rceamericasnetwork)

Attend the 12th RCE Americas Regional Meeting:

- Atlanta, GA USA - 27-29 September 2023, hosted by RCE Greater Atlanta
- Theme 'Youth Engagement - Empowering Our Youth to be Change Makers'

Contact Individual RCEs in the Americas for Mentoring and Support:

- <https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/rces-worldwide>





# Stay engaged with the Global RCE Network!

Review RCE Projects in Global RCE Portal:

- <https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/rcemap>

Subscribe to the monthly RCE Bulletin:

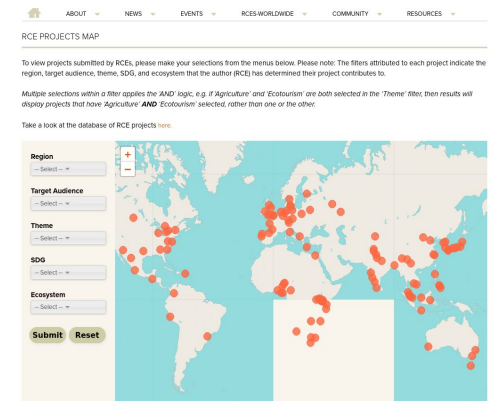
- <https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/rce-bulletin>

Attend 13th Global RCE Conference (hybrid format):

- October 31 - November 2, 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Hosted by [RCE Greater Gombak](#) & [RCE Greater Kuala Lumpur](#):  
Theme: 'Whole Community Approach for ESD'

RCE Publications:

- <https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/resources-publications-and-others>





# Apply to Become an RCE

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## *Tentative Timeline for RCE Application Process:*

- January 2024: UNU open call for applications
- May 2024: submission of first draft
- June 2024: comments from Global RCE Service Centre and Peer Reviewers
- September 2024: Final application and summary
- December 2024: Review by Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs
- January 2025: Announcement of UNU RCE Acknowledgement

# Stay engaged with AASHE!

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- weekly webinars
- online workshops, courses, other formats
  - May 18: [Integrating Sustainability Literacy Across Your Curricula-Best Practices](#)
  - Jun. 8 & 9: [Sustainability Education Forum](#)
  - Jun. 15 & 22: [Building a Curriculum Development Program for Your Institution](#)
  - Jun. 20 - Nov. 14: [From Climate Anxiety to Action: Tools to Build a Radical Imagination](#)
  - Starting mid-July: [Global Sustainability Across the Curriculum Program Development Support Group](#) (application deadline May 12!)
  - Aug. 3 - Dec. 7: [The Ultimate Cli-Fi Book Club for Sustainability in Higher Education](#)
  - SAVE THE DATE: August 21-23: [2023 Sustainability Leaders Impact Accelerator](#)
- online community: <https://community.aashe.org/home>
- newsletters: Bulletin & Announcements
- Campus Sustainability Hub: <https://hub.aashe.org>



# What's next?

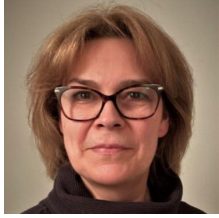
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- Zoom Events:  
<https://events.zoom.us/j/91987654321>
- Certificate
- Survey: <https://forms.gle/LS6ErwCLWvo3o9A47>
- Folder with Materials:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Sv1qRQKo6\\_UVC3O7bJ3T0yoYaBZfouxOnAAyom0-Ws/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Sv1qRQKo6_UVC3O7bJ3T0yoYaBZfouxOnAAyom0-Ws/edit#)

# Keep in Touch!



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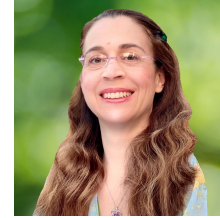
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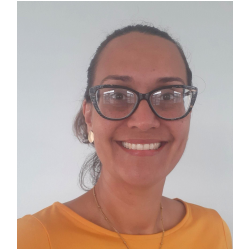
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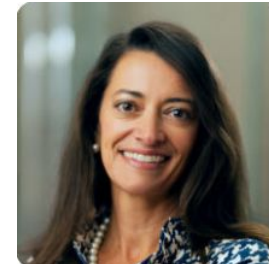
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