

## **CONNECT Sustainability Conference – 12/2/11**

### **Developing Learning Outcomes for Sustainability UMASS Dartmouth – Tara Rajaniemi**

UMASS Dartmouth sustainability programs

Current:

- Undergraduate certificate and minor in Sustainability Studies
- Graduate certificate in Sustainable Development

Planned:

- Undergraduate major in Sustainability Studies
- Master of Science and Ph.D. in Sustainable Development

Learning objectives can be for a single class or an entire program.

Learning objectives should be organized by goals, objectives, and outcomes:

- Goals: broad statements of what you want people to learn
- Objectives: more specific items – what you want students to know, do, believe or value
- Outcomes: what students do that allows them to show what they have learned

Objectives should:

- Use action verbs (avoid verbs such as “know” or “understand”)
- Be specific
- Suggest ways that learning can be assessed

Using action verbs and specificity facilitates the development of assessment methods

Project-based learning important component to sustainability courses and programs. UMD’s Sustainability minor has project-based capstone course.