



## OVERVIEW

The *Sustainability Education Summit* will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel on September 20 – 21, 2010. The US Department of Education, in coordination with other federal agencies, is hosting the summit. The event was mandated by Congress. The Summit is intended to be a working meeting, resulting in a proposed agenda with action steps.

## GOAL OF THE SUMMIT

The goal of the summit is to articulate a set of action steps for education, business and industry, government, and the environmental community to promote the transition to a sustainable, green economy. Further, each set of sector-specific action steps shall be coordinated to result in a broad national approach, centering on higher education and the education system in general.

The dual themes of “citizenship” and “pathways” acknowledge that sustainability is valued in education both as a motivator for responsible behavior, and to prepare tomorrow’s workforce in response to economic imperatives for sustainable industries.

## KEY THEMES AND CONCEPTS

The Summit will bring together leaders from education, business and industry, government, and NGOs to build shared visions and strategies for education’s role in building a sustainable and green economy. Discussions will begin at an advanced level, engaging leaders seeking to transform education, the economy, and the environment to align their objectives and work closely together, as follows.

Sustainable and Green Economic Development. The national discussion on job creation and economic revitalization will be considered by examining the needs of emerging and changing industries to accommodate sustainable perspectives across all sectors of the economy, such as energy conservation and generation, transportation, green buildings, climate change mitigation, natural resource management, and others.

Education Solutions. More than any other set of institutions, higher education is moving toward sustainable approaches. To yield a timely general call for action, the conference will consider some of the best ideas now being implemented.

Career Pathways. Sustainable economic development must be enabled by moving students through secondary-to-postsecondary career pathways programs to build the future workforce. The program will bring forward ways to establish the collaborations needed to build needed career pathways. Participants will discuss strategies and implications for engaging a broad range of sectors.

Work of the Summit: Leadership and the Role of Intermediaries. The culminating phase of the summit will critically examine the roles to be played by education; business; governments, including interagency efforts; and NGO's in answering the question: how can we insure that all students are prepared for the on-going transition to a green economy?

### **PARTICIPATION AND KEY FIGURES**

ED is planning the summit with cooperation of the following federal agencies: EPA, NSF, DOE, NOAA, DOL, HUD, CEQ, and OSTP. Senior federal officials, such as cabinet Secretaries, Deputy- and Under-Secretaries will attend; further, leaders of large corporations, higher education institutions and organizations, and leaders in the environmental-education movement will also attend.

ED/OVAE