Grand Challenge Research Initiatives & the "Grand Challenge" of Building Partnerships Within and Outside the University

NORDP May 1, 2015



# Today's Panelists



### Marjorie A. Duske

Director, Science and Technology University of California Office of Federal Governmental Relations



### Casandra Rauser, PhD

Project Director, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge UCLA Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research



Michelle Popowitz, JD, MPH Asst VCR and Exec Director for UCLA Grand Challenges UCLA Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

### By Telephone



Matthew Sharp Senior Policy Director Goldhirsh Foundation

## Topics

- Background
- Exploration of Internal Partnerships
- Case Study: Working with Faculty to Develop Sustainable LA Research Plan
- Exploration of External Partnerships
- Case Study: Goldhirsh Foundation & UCLA Partnership
- A Government Relations Perspective



### About Michelle

### Grand Challenges

A powerful way to enhance the research enterprise, drive collaboration and strengthen relationships with partners in and outside of campus

### Sustainable LA Grand Challenge

### Thriving in a Hotter Los Angeles

The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge combines the efforts of more than 140 UCLA researchers from nearly every school across campus to tackle the interrelated issues of energy, water and ecosystem health with the goal of making LA sustainable by 2050 and our commitment to deliver this plan by 2020.

ALMAN LAA

### **Depression Grand Challenge**

### Let there be an end to darkness

The Depression Grand Challenge unites dozens of UCLA scientists and scholars with public and private stakeholders around a common goal: cutting the burde of depression in half by 2050 and eliminating it by the end of the century.



## Reasons for Partnerships

- Address expertise gaps
- Means to engage stakeholders/ obtain critical buy-in
- Obtain new experience
- Increase reach/breadth

 $\rightarrow$ Enhance impact



### Partners or Functions on Campus\*



\*At various stages of engagement varying from simply identified to already immersed.



– Hustling for votes

My LA2050 Grants Challenge: Making LA the Healthiest Place to Live



- Hustling for votes
- Two courses

GC-URSP Grand Challenges Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

#### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

#### GC-URSP is a UCLA Grand Challenges class and research experience

This unique year-long course is centered around the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge: Making the LA region 100% sustainable in energy, water, and biodiversity by 2050.

#### 2nd & 3rd Years

If you will be a 2nd or 3rd year in Fall 2015, you are eligible to apply as a Scholar. For the 2015-16 school year, Scholars will learn research, communication, and innovation skills AND perform research under the mentorship of a Sustainable LA Grand Challenge faculty member. No research experience is necessary. You will also engage in an extended group project. Preference will be given to 2nd years.

#### 4th Years & Above

If you will be a 4th year or above in Fall 2015, you are eligible to apply as a Project Consultant. Project Consultants attend the class but do not do research. They have a special leadership role in the class and will work with a group of "5 Scholars in the class. They also work closely with Dr. Kennison for 1 additional hour a week.

#### Eligibility

Available to attend the class on Tuesdays, 6-8pm, all 3 quarters ALL majors welcome Minimum 2.7 GPA

#### APPLY BY MAY 3, 11:59pm http://vcr.ucla.edu/GC/URSP

UCLA Undergraduate Research Centers

6 3 MA

UCLA Grand Chellenses







Hustling for votes

# **Emerging Research Speaker Series**

- Two courses
- Showcasing the Grand Challenges



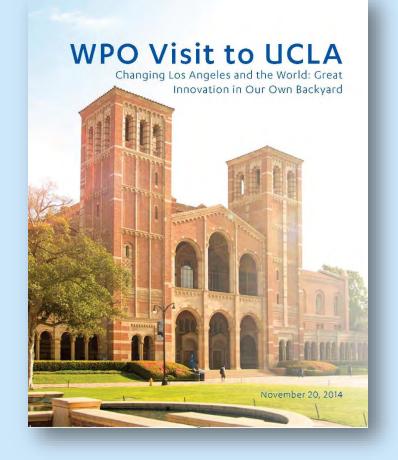
**Chancellor's Society Bruin Woods Weekend** 

#### APRIL 25-27, 2014

Join us to celebrate the 2014 Chancellor's Society Bruin Woods Weekend at UCLA's Lake Arrowhead Resort.

Bruin Woods is a unique and important part of UCLA. It sets us





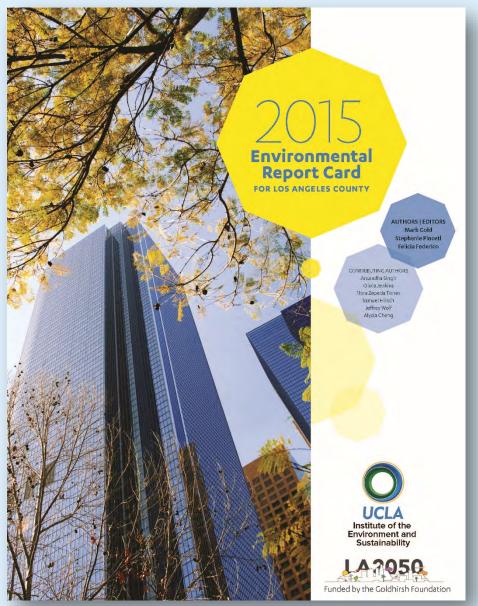
### – Partners:

- Campus community,
- Chancellor's Office
- Public Relations
- Staff Assembly
- Undergraduate Research Center
- Marketing & Communications



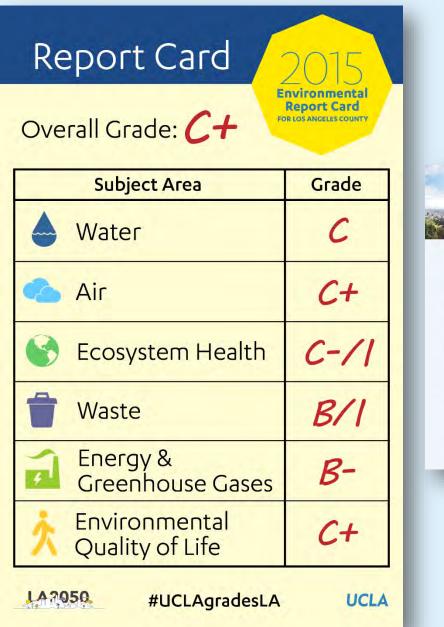
# Example 2: Promotion of Environmental Report Card

- Rationale:
  - Stimulate dialogue
  - Compel action among community members
  - Baseline measures
  - Involved existing partner



## Example 2: Promotion of Environmental Report Card

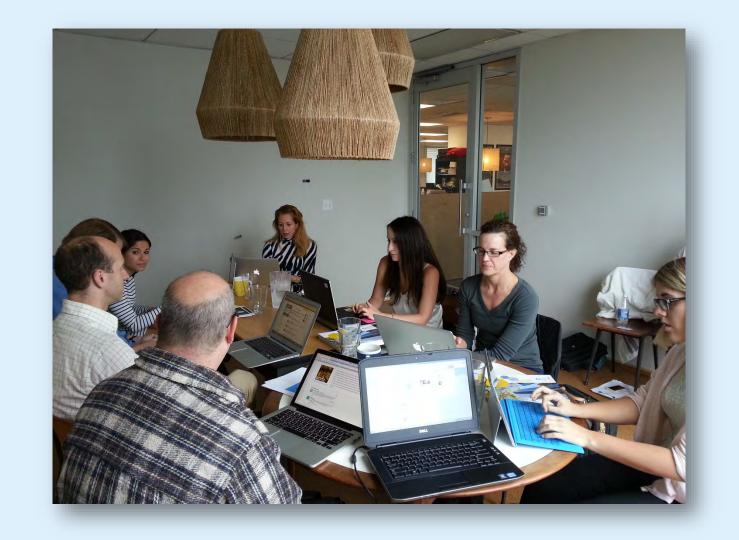




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A conversation Report C HOSTS @UCLAIOES	n exploring UCLA's I ard for Los Angeles HASHTAG	Environmental County. TIME Tuesday, April 7	

# Example 2: Promotion of Environmental Report Card

- Campus Partners:
  - Department staff
  - Faculty
  - Media Relations
  - Web team
  - Student Groups
  - Government Relations
- External Partners:
  - Goldhirsh Foundation



# Example 3: Traditional Research Development

- Funding opportunity from local utility.
- Short timeline.
- Served as communicator, collector and packager of proposals.
- 39 Proposals submitted in cohesive package.

### Partners:

- Faculty from about 8 departments
- Corporate, Foundation & Research Relations
- Leadership of Engineering School
- Development
- Industry Sponsored Research Office
- Research Administration





### About Cassie



### Casandra Rauser, Ph.D.

- 2014 -Director, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, UCLA
- 2009 2014 Research Development, UC Irvine (>100 proposals, \$78M, 38% funded)
- Freelance Editor (technical science writer) 2008 – 2009
- 2007 2008 Director, Tamarindo Preserve Conservancy, Costa Rica
- 2006 2008 Tutorial Developer, *Rapid Learning Center*
- Ph.D. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine
- B.S. Biology, Arizona State University

### Building Partnerships Among Researchers from Different Disciplines

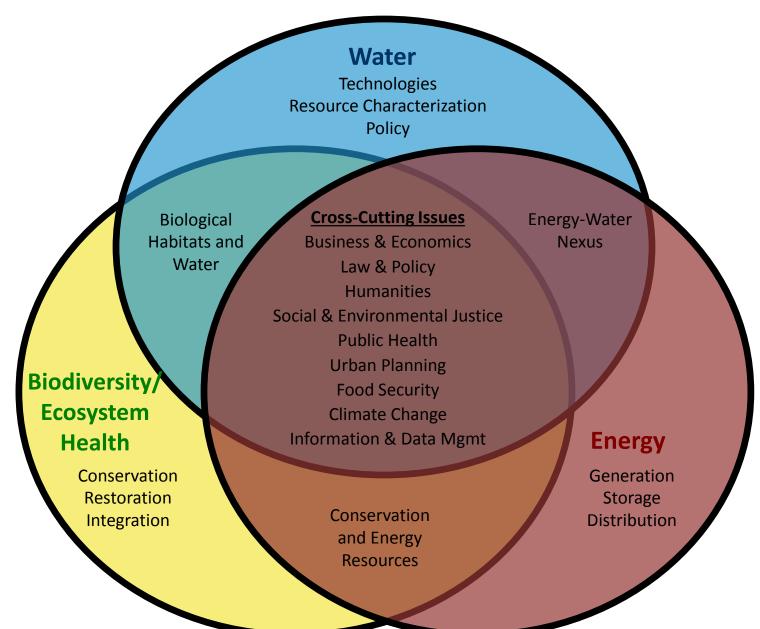


### CASE STUDY: Development of the Sustainable LA Research Plan

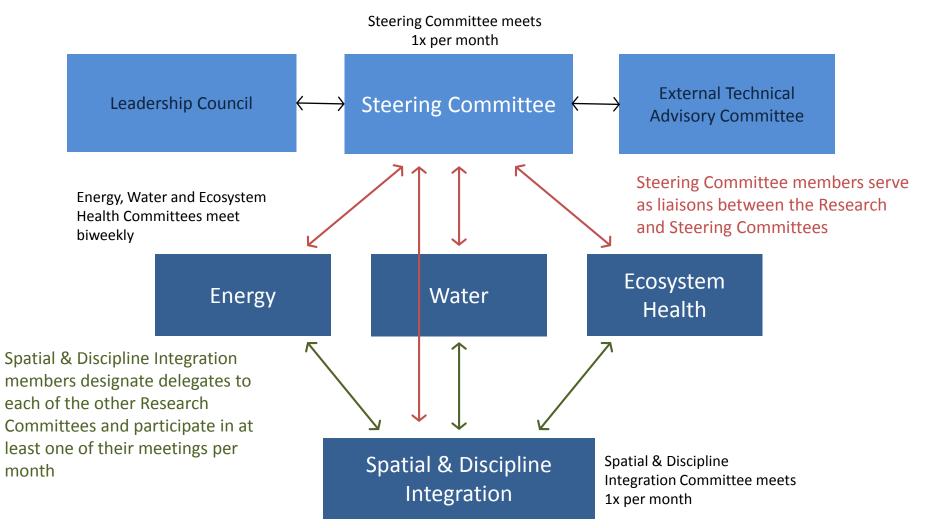


GOAL: Transform the LA region to 100% sustainability in energy, water and ecosystem health by 2050

### Organizing the Research Plan



### Organizing the Sustainable LA Research Committees



### Building the Interdisciplinary Teams



### What motivates individuals to collaborate?











Energy Energy Systems, & Water Climate Economics & Change & Policy Environmental Law & Policy

Richard

Coastal

WATER COMMITTEE

Mark Gold

Water Policy

Management

& Coastal

Resource

Ambrose

Environmental

Assessment &

Restoration

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH COMMITTEE



Management &

Ursula

Heise

Delivery

Diana Huffaker Physical Geography, High-efficiency Soil, Dust & Nanotech-

based

Photovoltaics



Paulson

Wirz Characterization Alternative of Air Quality & Energy Effects on Health Generation & & Climate Storage



Cara Horowitz

Renewable

Energy

Mike Jerrett Brad

Exposure Modeling & Land Use Characterization



Geographic

Applied Ecosystem Conservation







Maite Zubiaurre Cultural Diversity in Attitudes about Refuse

SPATIAL AND DISCIPLINE INTEGRATION COMMITTEE



Urban Design, Godwin Sensing **Public Health** Technologies & Impacts Architecture of Climate Change



Policy



Stephanie Pincetl Environmental Law & Science Energy & Water Use

Policy



Gaurav Sant Sustainable Construction



Materials





Architecture & Strategic **Urban Design** 

Nano-Sewage Treatment & **Recycled Water** 

Lee Remote Sensing for Water Quality Monitoring



Alex Hall Climate Science & Regional Climate Modeling

Tom

Gillespie

& Remote

Sensing

Biogeography



Juan

Matute

Sustainable

& Land Use

Transportation

Margulis Hydrologic Processes & **Climate Change** 

Christine



### Working within an Interdisciplinary Partnership



### Working within an Interdisciplinary Partnership



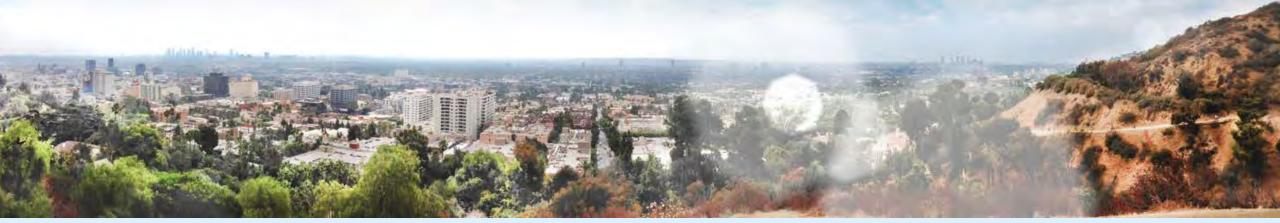




## Lessons Learned

- Develop a personal relationship with individual researchers
- Be upfront about expectations and funding opportunities
- Partnerships should be strategic and mutually beneficial
- Understand individual's motivation for collaborating
- Use food to motivate people
- Define a specific shared goal
- Be creative use structured brainstorming exercises, sometimes
- Be flexible tailor your facilitation to the personality of the group
- Practice diplomacy and conflict resolution strategies
- Understand the different languages among the disciplines and translate when necessary

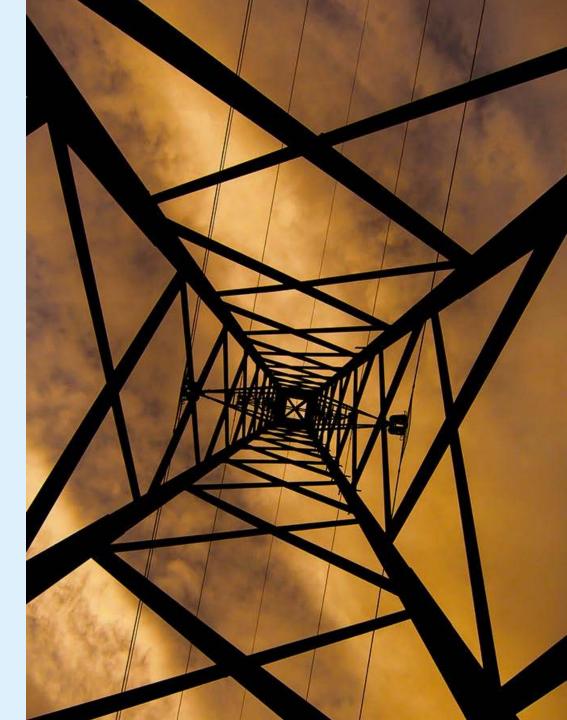
### **External Partners**



- Universities and Research Centers
- Government Entities (Local, County, State, National)
- Foundations
- Aligned Community Organizations
- Industry Partners
- Alumni Association & Support Groups
- Individual Philanthropists

# Strategies for External Partners

- Customized approach/pitch
- Flexibility in the type of relationships
- Careful consideration of implications for other partnerships





#### About Matt

## LA2050 + UCLA GRAND CHALLENGES

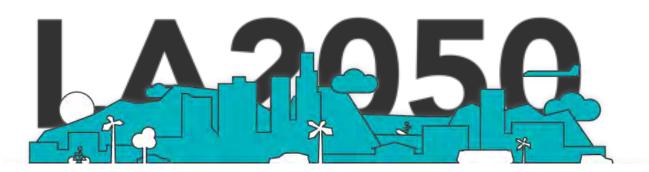
#### CONNECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED





OUR LARGEST INITIATIVE

LA2050 is a community-guided initiative that created a shared vision for the future of Los Angeles, and is driving and tracking progress toward that vision. We do this via research & reporting, capital investment, collaboration, and activation.





@taranellroth



@taranellroth

### **RECIPE FOR PARTNERSHIP:** A shared futurist vision Regional data tracking • Multiple assets





## A SHARED FUTURIST VISION

- Research teams are working on the long game
- Extraordinary depth in subject matter
- Tracking trends and visions





# REGIONAL DATA TRACKING

- Our largest city is one of 88
- Few sources centralize key measures of progress
- Credibility and long-term commitment to tracking





### RESOURCES THAT UNIVERSITIES CAN PROVIDE

- Thousands of engaged students
- Facilities to convene
- Alumni networks and relationships







#### About Marjorie

How Government Relations Supports Research

# Lessons Learned about Partnerships & Working with Grand Challenges

- Richness of the campus community
- Free stuff is a good motivator
- Importance of focus
- Flexibility is key
- Perfection is the enemy of progress
- Celebrate the successes
- Partners help you realize your potential



