Dear Colleague,

Please join us for:

**Exploring the Big Idea of integrating Sustainability into the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum.**

We will meet on November 18th, from 6:30-9:00pm in Lyons Dining Hall.

Our discussion format will be very open, with small groups of 5-6 at tables. Everyone within a group will be given the opportunity to speak. We will emphasize sharing and interactive discussion throughout the evening.

The Sustainability movement on campus is growing, with appointment of a Director of Sustainability and Energy Management, election of a UGBC president committed to sustainability, broad sustainability initiatives by BC Dining, and clear commitments to facilities sustainability in the Institutional Master Plan. However, as an institution of higher education, we can have an even greater positive impact on the planet, far beyond this important greening of our facilities, by teaching students that Sustainability is a way to think, not just a list of things to do.

I’m inviting you to join us for an evening discussion exploring Sustainability as a Big Idea for our curriculum at Boston College. Big ideas are the concepts, themes, debates, paradoxes, questions, theories and/or practices that are central to a course of study. I’ve attached an article by Daniel Sherman that lays out a compelling case for Sustainability as a Big Idea in higher education.

There is already strong support for this among students: 83% of student respondents to a campus survey had a moderate to strong interest in seeing integration of Sustainability into the BC curriculum. To serve our students, we need to articulate, as a community, a definition of Sustainability for Boston College.

What would a BC graduate that has obtained a Sustainability-enriched college education be like?
What would a Sustainability themed course or curriculum look like?
Do we have a particular obligation as a Jesuit University to educate students to consider not only other people but also the planet when making decisions?

I hope that you can join us. Please RSVP to hakel@bc.edu.

Peace,
Laura