

**Humans & the Environment:  
Sustainability Across the Disciplines  
A symposium co-sponsored by the  
Institute for Sustainability & the School of Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Núñez  
March 24, 2023**

Good morning and welcome! I'm very happy to greet all of you this morning and welcome you to a very special event on our campus.

I'd like to begin by thanking Dr. Emily Todd, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Patty Szczys, Director of the Institute for Sustainability, along with the faculty, staff and students on their team for planning and organizing today's symposium. This is a very important event on our campus, one that Eastern is uniquely qualified to host. Let me tell you why I believe this to be the case.

First of all, in 1987, a United Nations Commission defined "sustainability" as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Eastern is by no means new to conversations concerning sustainability, and the critical role sustainability plays in reversing the effects of climate change and moving our society toward the achievement of social justice for all people.

For many years, Eastern's dedication to sustainability has been defined in terms of environmental stewardship. Our program has been decades in the making, and is built on three fundamental, interrelated "pillars". The first of these is an academic pillar through our Center for Sustainable Studies.

The Center was established in 2000 and the first Endowed Chair in Sustainable Energy Studies was appointed in 2004. The Center's mission is to engage in research and to provide curriculum that actively engages students with sustainability issues including, climate change and the disproportionate impact environmental crises have on marginalized communities and





