

March 12, 2017

Hanley Sustainability Institute Search Committee  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio 45469

*RE: Executive Director, Hanley Sustainability Institute*

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

I write to express my strong interest in the position of Executive Director for the Hanley Sustainability Institute at the University of Dayton. With the right leader at its helm, I believe the Institute can significantly advance sustainability within the Dayton community, and well beyond. I am passionate about the environment, and have spent my career working to protect our climate and natural resources. I believe my knowledge and experience as a sustainability practitioner, coupled with my skills and interests, would enable me to effectively approach the opportunities - yet also address the challenges - identified in the Executive Director position description.

In reviewing information regarding the Hanley Sustainability Institute, I became impressed by the strong underpinnings, clear commitment and inspirational goals the Institute enjoys. The two things I find most striking are: (1) the intentional cross-disciplinary approach among and within the campus, and (2) the compassionate and experiential approach extending from the campus, into communities near and far. This combination of a solid foundation with commendable sustainability ambitions leaves me enthusiastic about the possibilities for the Institute.

I have a high regard for academia, and have taught graduate, undergraduate and professional students at public, private and Jesuit schools. I have experience presenting sustainability and environmental issues to students of varying backgrounds, such as engineering, business, law and architecture. I also enjoy working in conjunction *with* universities. I sit on the Leadership Council of the Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), and have participated as a Sustainability Fellow at Saint Louis University (SLU). I often guest lecture in class and am asked to give sustainability presentations on campus. In the Mayor's Office, I frequently mentor volunteers and students interested in sustainability internships.

My professional work includes acting as Sustainability Consultant to the Provost at the University of Nevada (UNR), Reno. In that capacity I developed Sustainability Considerations for UNR officials, and helped prepare the sustainability content for the UNR Comprehensive Campus Master Plan. As Sustainability Director for the City of St. Louis, I partner with numerous faculty, staff and researchers affiliated with Washington University, SLU and UMSL. Some partnerships have involved research; others have been attempts to focus on a common community issue, such as the Sustainable Land Lab Competition to address vacant city parcels.

Building and maintaining relationships is one of my strong suits. I know what it takes to earn and keep the trust of partners, funders, students and participants. I enjoy bringing diverse perspectives together in pursuit of common ground. I have become adept at cultivating innovative, collaborative endeavors. For example, I perceived a need, saw an opportunity and

established the vision for the City of St. Louis Urban Vitality & Ecology Initiative. I spearheaded what has turned into a unique and robust collaboration of three-dozen partner organizations, agencies and institutions. My sustainability office serves as the backbone for approximately eighty (80) stakeholders that now work to achieve collective impact on a variety of urban ecology efforts in the City of St. Louis. Several aspects of this collaboration - such as *Milkweeds for Monarchs: The St. Louis Butterfly Project* - have involved participation of universities faculty, graduate students, nonprofits, community groups, residents, businesses and agencies.

Over the course of my career, I have succeeded at conceiving initiatives, launching efforts and leading programs. Some examples include creating a nonprofit, building an environmental legal division in the headquarters of a federal agency, and making the case to commence a comprehensive, triple bottom line sustainability program in the City of St. Louis. I oversaw development of the first and award-winning sustainability plan for the city. In developing the Sustainability Plan, I orchestrated an extensive community engagement process that elicited - and balanced - input from internal (departmental) and external community stakeholders. Perhaps more importantly, I followed the visioning and engagement aspects by setting priorities for strategic implementation, and finding resources needed to implement many of them.

While in my current position, the city has won more than \$2M in sustainability grants and awards, including some that have given me the opportunity to hire and supervise sustainability professionals. Throughout my tenure, I leveraged limited Mayor's Office staff and resources by forging new partnerships between the city and community organizations, funders, businesses and agencies. To assist in implementing sustainability objectives, I established both an inter-departmental Green Team and collaborations involving diverse community stakeholders.

Fundraising is an area in which I excel, and I have procured financial and other resources to enrich or expand many sustainability efforts. I have experience working with foundations (e.g., Summit Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Incarnate Word Foundation), as well as national networks (e.g., Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Biophilic Cities Network, City Energy Project), federal agencies (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), and national nonprofit organizations (e.g., National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Green Building Council). These many interactions and experiences have provided me with insights on how to effectively approach and structure partnership arrangements, so that they result in mutually beneficial outcomes and outputs.

I have a proven track record envisioning, developing and delivering impactful sustainability programs. I am known to be an inspirational leader, a compelling communicator and a successful fundraiser. I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss how my creativity, energy, skills and experiences could serve the interests of the Hanley Sustainability Institute. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With kind regards,

*Catherine L. Werner*

Catherine L. Werner

**CATHERINE L. WERNER**  
**J.D., LEED A.P.**

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*Environmental attorney, educator and natural resources specialist with successful record of advancing urban sustainability, climate protection and conservation initiatives, real estate transactions, and handling diverse matters of environmental law and policy. Special knowledge of urban sustainability, climate planning and protection, green infrastructure, sustainable development, green buildings, biodiversity, tallgrass prairies and urban ecology.*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR - *Office of the Mayor*** City of St. Louis, MO (2009-Present)  
Conceptualized and orchestrated development of the city's first sustainability plan: an award-winning triple bottom line plan, created with extensive municipal and community engagement. Lead the city's efforts on sustainability, climate protection and urban ecology. Forge partnerships with and among government departments and external organizations, such as nonprofits, civic groups, agencies, educational institutions, and private sector firms. Leverage and seek new resources for sustainability efforts and implementation of initiatives. Lead the city's sustainability outreach and communication efforts through compelling presentations and programs, and by developing informational materials and graphics that are shared through print, web and social media. Oversaw programmatic implementation of the city's \$3.7M Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant activities, including creation of the successful Set The PACE St. Louis energy efficiency financing program. Coordinated the city's role in \$800K of a \$4.7M HUD-funded Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Grant. Found resources and capacity to participate in the STAR Community Rating System, earning a three star rating for the city. Played a pivotal role in securing approximately \$2M of sustainability resources for the city through grant requests and fundraising opportunities. Examples of successful awards include:

- City Energy Project award to support building energy efficiency programs
- Funders' Network grant to launch City of St. Louis Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative
- GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces award for urban monarch habitat
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant to create St. Louis Riverfront Butterfly Byway
- USDN Innovation Grant to create a national Urban Biodiversity Inventory Framework
- USDN Innovation Grant to develop an urban agriculture scan of existing best practices
- U.S. EPA Urban Small Waters grant to promote community-based green infrastructure
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant to conduct urban monarch education and research

Other successful fundraising efforts include donations, in-kind support and private sponsorships for Mayor's Sustainability Summits, the City of St. Louis Urban Vitality & Ecology Initiative, *Milkweeds for Monarchs: The St. Louis Butterfly Project*, and climate action activities. Supervise staff, volunteers and interns. Recognized with awards.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST - *Kiley Ranch Communities*** Reno, NV (2005-07)

Provided environmental guidance and direction for the creation of the first sustainably-developed master planned community in northern Nevada. Served as project manager for the design and establishment of a 225-acre wildlife wetland preserve hosting 80+ bird species and a federally-endangered skipper. Supported environmental interpretation, fundraising and marketing activities. Spearheaded the use of sustainable development practices and green building techniques in residential units and community properties.

**SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT - *University of Nevada, Reno*** Reno, NV (2004-05)

Supported the university's master planning process as the provost's sustainability consultant. Drafted sustainability portions of UNR's Master Plan. Provided support and input on design aspects to "green" the student union. Conducted extensive research on sustainability issues and materials. Analyzed data and prepared a thorough set of resources and recommendations to facilitate UNR's efforts to make university practices, buildings and operations more sustainable.

**PROJECT COORDINATOR - *Chicago Department of Environment*** Chicago, IL (2003-04)

As water specialist in the natural resources division, developed publications, workshops and outreach materials promoting stormwater best management practices. Researched and promoted water conservation and native landscaping issues. Prepared and administered grants for natural resource activities and water quality projects. Supported citywide water conservation public education campaign. Organized and implemented all aspects of hosting conferences on issues relating to aquatic invasive species, sustainable development water design, and topics of concern to Great Lakes mayors. Oversaw generation of associated documents, materials and proceedings.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR - *Chicago Wilderness*** Chicago, IL (2000-01)

Coordinated programmatic and administrative aspects of a large collaboration of public and private conservation entities. Participated in fundraising aspects, including facilitating the development of a corporate council within the business community. Oversaw staff and ensured there was a cohesive and supportive infrastructure for the collaboration. Orchestrated the development of the first comprehensive strategic workplan for the collaboration. Established the internal framework and requisite documentation to launch a corresponding 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Developed practices and processes to communicate efficiently within the coalition and to achieve timely results.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - *Prairies Forever*** St. Louis, MO (1999-Present)

Formed this 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to conduct various education and outreach programs to raise awareness of, and appreciation for, tallgrass prairie ecosystems. Developed informative materials and conducted educational events targeting people and locations in the urban community. Successfully raised funds through grants, merchandise sales and donations to support the organization. Created promotional and communication pieces and tools, including the Prairies Forever website: [www.prairies.org](http://www.prairies.org). Partnered with entities and institutions to successfully engage the public in prairie-related learning activities. Respond to ongoing requests for prairie information.

**DIRECTOR OF LAND PROTECTION - *The Nature Conservancy of Missouri*** St. Louis, MO (1996-99)

Achieved significant conservation targets and goals through land acquisition, conservation easements, partnerships and private stewardship. Was able to negotiate complex, elusive transactions that were key to creating landscape-scale prairies. Protected/acquired priority parcels for 7,000+ acres of eco-regionally significant land. Drafted the first conservation easement for TNC-Missouri chapter's use. Established partnerships and enhanced communication in the Missouri conservation community. Revived and oversaw voluntary private landowner initiatives for TNC-Missouri. Coordinated and served as point person for various projects with conservation partnerships throughout the state.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COUNSEL - *Resolution Trust Corporation/Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*** [after Congress closed the RTC] Washington, D.C. (1991-96)

Established and coordinated RTC's environmental legal group by developing a responsive and proactive headquarters office to handle all environmental issues, creating a broad framework for effective communication and education, and forging interdepartmental and interagency relationships. Developed various environmental documents, procedures and policies for nationwide use. Acted as environmental expert in numerous real estate transactions impacted by environmental hazards and natural resource issues. Analyzed federal environmental legislation and worked on Congressional legislative proposals. Interfaced with regional offices and outside counsel.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATE - *Schmeltzer, Aptaker & Sheppard* and *Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges*** [upon merger] Washington, D.C. (summer of 1987, 1988-91)

Performed extensive research on, and drafted legal memoranda and pleadings relating to, environmental legal issues. Developed specialized knowledge of hazardous waste issues and CERCLA provisions. Supervised and participated in discovery activities for complex environmental litigation. Drafted book chapters on Superfund issues for senior partners.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY LEGAL INTERN - *Eastern Dist. of MO*** St. Louis, MO (1988)

Managed, prepared and engaged in discovery proceedings pertaining to civil litigation. Handled case management and successfully conducted a civil drug forfeiture bench trial.

## **EDUCATION**

**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, St. Louis, MO J.D. 1988**

Honors and Activities: Dean's Scholarship; President of Women's Law Caucus; Moot Court Participant; Instructor for the High School Law Project

**DUKE UNIVERSITY, Durham, NC (Political Science) B.A. 1985 *cum laude***

Honors and Activities: Dean's List, 1982-1985; President, Duke Energy Action Committee; Vice President, Pi Beta Phi Sorority; Duke Physical Plant Liaison/Energy Management Advisory Council Student Representative

## **FORMAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR - *Washington University in St. Louis*** St. Louis, MO

Environmental Law: Applications Toward Sustainability (2011-present)

Planning Sustainable Communities (2016)

Urban Ecology: Principles and Practice (2016)

Environmental Issues in Business / Olin School of Business (1998-2000)

**AFFILIATE PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY - *Washington University/University of Missouri St. Louis Joint Engineering Program*** St. Louis, MO  
Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy (1997)

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR - *University of Maryland Engineering School*** College Park, MD  
Environmental Law for Engineers (1996)

## **NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- **Keynote:** Commission for Environmental Cooperation - Tri-National Monarch (2017)
- **Keynote:** U.S. F&WS - Landscape Conservation Design Monarch Conservation (2016)
- **Keynote:** Webster University - Sustainability Conference (2016)
- **Keynote:** U.S. F&WS - Landscape Conservation Cooperative Conference (2016)
- **Keynote:** Botanic Gardens Conservation International - Congress on Education (2015)
- **Keynote:** Principia College - Public Affairs Conference on Sustainability (2014)
  
- **Webinar:** U.S. F&WS Landscape Conservation Cooperative (2017)
- **Webinar:** Biophilic Cities Network (2016)
- **Webinar:** National Wildlife Federation (2015)
- **Webinar:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (2015)

### **Other Professional Presentations:**

Have organized and/or presented at numerous other sustainability, conservation and environmental programs, including presenting on Environmental Issues in Privatization Transactions to the Ministry of Privatization in Warsaw, Poland (1993).

## **RELEVANT CREDENTIALS & APPOINTMENTS**

**BAR ADMISSIONS:** *Missouri Supreme Court* (1988); *District of Columbia Circuit Court* (1989); *District of Columbia Court of Appeals* (1989)

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:** Whitney Harris World Ecology Center, University of Missouri in St. Louis (2015-present)

**LEADERSHIP ST. LOUIS:** Program Graduate (Class of 1998-1999)

**LEED ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL:** Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design New Construction v. 2.2 (2008)

**MASTER ECOLOGIST:** Missouri Botanical Garden Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (1998)

**OTHER:** St. Louis University Sustainability Fellow (2011- present)