

THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF DEEPLY IMMERSIVE, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION AT LARGE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

PRESENTER: PAUL HELLMUND

Abstract: Could CSU students benefit from expanded opportunities for highly immersive, project-based learning, especially related to complex subjects, such as sustainability? Come hear of the forty-four years of experiences of just such an educational program (The Conway School in Massachusetts) and join in a discussion of how such an approach could be relevant at large public universities, including potential opportunities and institutional obstacles.

Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the workings of one such, long-standing, experiential program.
- Learn of the successes and shortcomings of this approach.

Join in a discussion, using CSU as an example, of the potential opportunities and institutional obstacles of implementing such an approach at a large, public university

Bio: As a Visiting Fellow at CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Paul Cawood Hellmund, is exploring the role of experiential learning in higher education for sustainability.

For the last ten years he was president of the Conway School and director of its graduate program in sustainable landscape planning and design, which uses a unique highly immersive project-based learning model that puts students squarely in charge of their own education. In addition to Conway, Paul has served as faculties of Colorado State, Virginia Tech, and Harvard Universities.

A Harvard-educated landscape architect and planner and a CSU graduate, Paul was born and raised in the Republic of Panama. He is the founder and president of Hellmund Associates, which aids communities with conservation and other land use planning, and has expertise in the reuse of contaminated lands, such as at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Rocky Flats, and Stapleton International Airport. Paul has published two books, with Daniel S. Smith, that emphasize ecological integration in land use planning: *Ecology of Greenways* (1993) and *Designing Greenways* (2006).