

## **GREEN MODULE FOR ABE/GED CLASSES**

**During Winter Quarter 2011 and Spring Quarter 2011, Sustainability concepts were incorporated into the curriculum for one of the Adult Basic Education (ABE)/General Educational Development (GED) classes in the Pre-College Studies Department here at Highline Community College. These classes include instruction in reading, writing, science, social studies and mathematics, and may include preparation for COMPASS testing for some students.**

**At the onset, the assumption was presented that some of the students in the class may not know what sustainability means or how it applies to their lives. The proposed module was designed to show that once these students have a better understanding of the concepts involved, they may have practices or suggestions regarding what they are already doing or could do to live in a more sustainable manner. This module included: 1) examining the environmental, economic and social justice aspects of sustainability, 2) presenting examples of sustainable lifestyle choices through a cooperative learning model, and 3) giving students a writing assignment to show how these concepts can be applied.**

**The lesson plans developed included vocabulary building team competitions (under science and social studies) with terms related to “Big Ideas” in sustainability, “Environmental Footprint” website evaluations by the students, and an essay writing activity showing understanding of the environmental, social and economic principles involved. Another lesson was added to include a pre-writing teamwork/brainstorming poster session for sustainable activities suggested by students. These learner engagement activities focused on cooperative learning and evaluation of essays for focus, organization, use of details, word choice and Standards of American English.**

**The students were not resistant to the idea of putting sustainability into practice, as judged by their essays and self-assessments at the conclusion of the module. Comments included ideas to incorporate habits for reducing ecological footprints such as reducing automobile trips, unplugging electronics, taking shorter showers and other ways of using less water, and recycling. They added comments related to engaging and encouraging others by telling family, friends and local community members how to live more sustainably, making changes by taking small steps and saving money, the economy and our planet earth’s resources for ourselves, our children, and animals. Information about this module with suggested comments for incorporation in other ABE/GED classes is scheduled for presentation to other instructors at the Basic Skills meeting held on the first day of Summer Quarter 2011.**