



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2016

STATE HONORS HOLLAND AREA GROUP FOR EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR ENVIRONMENT



Pictured above (left to right): Jessica Vander Ark (WMEAC), Lisa Miller (GVSU-Holland Meijer Campus), Colleen Nagel (City of Holland Sustainability Committee), Michelle Gibbs (Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute), Devan Dodge (MDEQ), Paul Lilly (community sustainability champion), and Laura Grant (Herrick District Library). Other team members not pictured: Don Triezenberg (community sustainability champion), Sara DeVries and Dwayne Betcher (Herrick District Library), and Suzanne Dixon (League of Women Voters).

Holland, MI (Sept. 29th,) 2016 -- *Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore* has received the "2016 Top Project Award" from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Neighborhood Environmental Partners Program. The Ottawa County advocacy group was recognized for its 2015 educational series and for collaborating with 50 local partners on behalf of sustainability education. The announcement was made earlier this month at the First Annual Michigan Sustainability

Conference, held in Grand Rapids, where members of the planning team accepted the award together.

During the acceptance of the award, Michelle Gibbs, director of the Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute, shared, “A partnership can be described as individuals or organizations coming together and sharing resources and skills for a profit or goal. The LSATL group has done exactly that, except that instead of seeking a monetary profit, our goal has been to create a more sustainable community. We all want to live in a community that is vibrant, beautiful, healthy, economically strong, and a place that is welcoming to all for generations to come. When that happens we all profit together.”

Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore offers free educational events which aim to educate and empower Holland area residents to live more sustainably. The series is supported by the following sponsor organizations:

- City of Holland, as part of the Sustainability Committee’s efforts
- Herrick District Library, as part of the Library’s adult programming series
- Hope College, as part of the Holland-Hope College Sustainability Institute
- League of Women Voters, as part of the Natural Resource Committee’s efforts
- Meijer Campus of Grand Valley State University, as part of the University’s commitment to sustainability.
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

The 2016-17 educational efforts continue with a forum, “Is Sustainability on the Ballot in November ?” on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Herrick District Library.

To learn more about the series and other community events visit:www.hope.edu/sustainability-institute.