

## **Purdue University Finishes in the Final Four of the First-Ever March Madness Tournament for Environmental Academics**

*Colby College (Maine) Named Champion*

**West Lafayette, Indiana —April 2, 2012—** Purdue University today announced that it finished in the Final Four of the inaugural “March Madness” national tournament for environmental and sustainability academic excellence. The contest was sponsored by [Enviance, Inc.](#), a global company specializing in environmental and regulatory risks, and [Environmental Leader](#), a daily energy and environmental trade publication. Colleges and universities were ranked by a group of distinguished environmental science professionals based upon the schools’ dedication to the study and practice of sustainability. The panel evaluated academic courses offered, extra-curricular activities, and the opportunity for students to engage in real-world experiences. Purdue advanced to the Sustainable Sixteen on March 12, along with colleges such as Cornell University, Duke, Ohio State, University of Florida, University of California (Davis), Colorado State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Colby College of Maine. On Friday March 30, Purdue was announced as member of the Final Four along with Colorado State, RIT, and the eventual winner, Colby College.

“Purdue’s excellent showing in this competition is an indication of the high quality of the environmental education available at Purdue,” said Paul Schwab, Director of Purdue’s Natural Resources and Environmental Science Program. “Our students are passionate about the environment and global sustainability, and we see this every day in the wide range of student-driven projects across campus. Finishing in the Final Four among serious national competition is a validation of the outstanding students and programs we have here in West Lafayette.”

The March Madness Tournament for Environmental Studies was designed to evaluate colleges and universities on their academic and sustainability prowess as it relates to the environment, in a format similar to the NCAA Men’s College Basketball Tournament. To be considered, each school submitted a survey response covering topics related to curriculum, graduation rate, facilities and

student retention. The submissions were evaluated by a panel of expert judges, with the combined recommendations determining the “Sustainable 16.”

Those 16 schools were then given the chance to submit essays, photos and videos to the judges, for further consideration to be included in the “Environmental Eight,” as well as the “Final Four”.

Judges for this year’s tournament include:

- Peter Fox, Principal & Chairman of The Brattle Group
- Velislava Ivanova, Global Sustainability Practice Director at CH2M HILL
- Larry Goldenhersh, CEO & President of Enviance
- Nick Johnson, Managing Consultant at Trinity Consultants
- Don Cuffel, Manager of Environmental Engineering at Valero/California

Relevant links:

[Enviance: Sustainable Sixteen and Final Four](#)

[Enviance Press Release: Final Four](#)

[Environmental Leader: Colby College Announced as Champion](#)

[Purdue's Student Video Submissions](#)

Paul Schwab, Director,

Purdue NRES

765-496-3602

[pschwab@purdue.edu](mailto:pschwab@purdue.edu)

<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/NRES>