Empowering Change Agents through the Heroic Imagination Project

The Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN) has partnered with the Heroic Imagination Project (HIP) to integrate sustainability issues into this proven social psychological train-the-trainer model. This pilot project will provide youth and adults in the greater Portland region an opportunity to gain the necessary confidence and skills to engage in their communities and quickly scale up their impact. Based on the premise that ordinary people are capable of taking extraordinary actions, we provide participants with new ways of seeing the world and new skillsets, all derived from scientific research, that provide the "how" for creating positive social change. This project offers a case study for regional networks around the world to promote sustainability curriculum and become "heroes" at the local and global level.

Our mission is to create a new generation of Everyday Heroes who engage in daily deeds of kindness and social engagement in their roles as Heroes-in-Training.

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT, TAKE ACTION

Training:

Each training program targets specific, evidence-based psychological processes which inhibit effective sustainability thoughts and practices and transforms them into action. Trainings are designed to allow participants without a psychology background to effectively deliver course material. All of our programs combine rich academic content with engaging videos and hands-on activities that empower people. Schools, colleges and organizations can tailor the trainings to fit their learning objectives and unique needs.

General Principles:

1. Participate directly with students and community members.

2. Engage in processes to promote academic and social success, which result in long-term, positive outcomes.

3. Normalize behaviors and processes that build empathy and hope.

4. Assure participants that they have the ability to grow and improve and demonstrate how to do so.

5. Help participants develop healthy attributions to overcome self-doubt, fear, and obstacles.

Resources:

1. Provide participants with tangible tools to present the knowledge and information.

2. Encourage participants to share what they have learned with others.

3. Offer suggestions for projects that participants can do to implement positive change.

Educate, Empower, Engage

http://heroicimagination.org/