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Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation
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"Are we educating for a Sustainable Future?"
CEL F Summer Sustainability Workshop at Simmons College Helps Teachers
Generate Curriculum for Change

Boston, MA: Next week, 40 forward-thinking Boston area middle and high school teachers from 17 schools will gather at Simmons College to generate curriculum for change. The lessons they will create will become part of the MA Education for Sustainability (Efs) Campaign: a grass-roots, student-led effort to incorporate sustainability into the Massachusetts school curriculum.

Facilitating this work will be The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CEL F). The NY-based non-profit has joined forces with Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network (BLS Youth CAN) to bring its Summer Institute for Sustainability Education (SE) to Boston for the first time and from 19-23 July will train educators to incorporate the 'big ideas' of sustainability, such as understanding that the economy is embedded in the ecosystem or that there is no 'away' when it comes to disposing of waste, into their teaching. SE, also known as Education for Sustainability or Efs, integrates ecological, economic and social perspectives, encourages student inquiry, and promotes positive, community-based action.

One of the most comprehensive programs of its kind, the CEL F Summer Institute was established in 2005. Presenters will cover topics ranging from the ecological footprint to the carbon economy, sharing tips on using the outdoor classrooms and designing greener products. **THE LAST 2 DAYS OF THE INSTITUTE WILL BE SPENT DEVELOPING CURRICULUM FOR THE MA EFS CURRICULUM PILOT.** On Thursday July 22 at 1pm, Youth CAN students will join the line up of presenters, as they introduce educators at the Institute to several of the youth group's Education for Sustainability projects that involve the broader community, including their statewide Efs campaign.

Fifteen Boston Latin School teachers will be participating with the enthusiastic support of BLS Headmaster Lynne Mooney-Teta, who notes, *"the climate crisis calls for a swift response from the K-12 education system to adequately prepare students for 21st century challenges. BLS is excited to be at the forefront of this movement by piloting the first part of a MA Efs curriculum starting this fall."* Rebecca Park, President of the Boston Latin School Youth CAN, the group who pushed for the Efs pilot, highlights why students are leading the way in promoting sustainability curriculum, *"we are the ones who will be part of a green economy, who will have to change our lifestyles and thinking to avert disastrous effects to the world we live in. There's no better time to start learning how to do that than in school."* BLS Youth CAN faculty advisor Cate Arnold explains, *"once we have tried and tested the Efs curriculum pilot at BLS, other interested schools will be encouraged to incorporate it, before we push for Efs to be adopted statewide".*

The workshop received funding from the **National Grid Foundation**, enabling CEL F to offer tuition scholarships for public school teachers from urban districts. National Grid Foundation President Bob Keller says, *"we are pleased to support this type of teacher training in Boston, as it not only promotes a positive response to climate change in our communities, but also has been shown to increase student engagement and performance."*

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CEL F) www.celfoundation.org is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that collaborates with public school districts and individual teachers to raise awareness of sustainable development and to help incorporate related principles into K-12 curricula and programs.

BLS Youth CAN www.blsyouthcan.org is an after school club at the Boston Latin School working in their community and beyond to address the problem of global climate change and promote education for sustainability. BLS Youth CAN maintains multiple community partnerships with youth and adults in support of its numerous initiatives.

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