Education for Sustainability: Conference and Field Workshop in Bogota, Colombia

07.01.2019 The fourth annual conference on Education for Sustainability in Bogota, Colombia was focused on sustainability competencies. Dr. Erin Redman was invited by a network of schools in Bogota to be the Keynote speaker at this conference, hosted at Gimnasio Feminino on November 22nd, 2018. The title of Dr. Redman’s keynote presentation was, “Educators are Change Agents.”

The focus of the talk was on the role of teachers as leaders not just via curriculum delivery, but also through the language they use and the behaviors they model. She connected the pivotal roles of teachers to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing that teachers contribute to all goals, not just SDG 4 on Quality Education. Dr. Redman shared her work and results from the Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes (GCSO) collaboration between Leuphana University of Luneburg, Dublin City University, and Tecnologico de Monterrey that aims to support teachers in the development of sustainability competencies.

In addition to the keynote presentation Dr. Erin Redman and M.Sc. Aaron Redman jointly led a workshop session on ‘Food Systems are Dynamic’ in which the participants experienced the changing and interconnected food system through a hands-on activity. They also partnered with OpEPA (Organización para la Educación y Protección Ambiental) to lead a field workshop at the Reserva Natural Los Tunos-San Antonia de Tequendama on November 24th and 25th. This workshop was attended by 25 primary and secondary teachers in Colombia and was focused on creating visions for
sustainability in their schools and action plans to work towards those visions, while considering path dependencies and intervention points. Aaron Redman was the lead facilitator for the field workshop and used his expertise in future visioning to support the educators during this 2-day activity.

Datum: 07.01.2019
Kategorien: Fak_Nachhaltig_Meldungen
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