

## ARIZ. TO JOIN 'FOCUS THE NATION' EFFORT CLIMATE IS TARGET OF SCHOOL PROGRAM

To help create solutions to global warming, more than 1,200 colleges, universities and high schools in Arizona and across the United States this week will participate in Focus the Nation, a teach-in to educate and energize about 1 million young adults.

Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Glendale Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Tempe High and Corona del Sol High are among those hosting events.

ASU's School of Sustainability, reportedly the first school of its kind in the nation, will be showcased in a 4-minute segment as part of the Webcast of "The 2% Solution," produced by the National Wildlife Federation.

The Webcast, to be shown at selected campuses, will focus on the need to decrease carbon emissions by 2 percent each year for the next 40 years to reach the goal scientists advocate of 80 percent reduction by 2050. No other generation has had to face a threat as significant as global warming, according to Eban Goodstein, founder and director of Focus the Nation and professor of economics at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon.

"We would be failing as educators if we did not prepare them with the tools necessary to meet this challenge," Goodstein said.

ASU President Michael Crow said the Focus the Nation events represent education at its finest.

"Our students have enormous power to use their education and passion to create positive change in the world," he said.

Glendale Community College will host a variety of events Wednesday through Friday, including a panel discussion of community leaders on Thursday.

"Our goal is to develop the political will to respond to the challenge of climate change: on our campus, in collaboration with our

supporting communities and across America," said Robert Reavis, assistant chair of GCC's Department of Biology. "America needs to be a global leader on climate change and we need national leaders willing to take on the challenge of the 21st century."

Pushpa Ramakrishna, Chandler-Gilbert Community College biology faculty and coordinator of CGCC's Focus the Nation events, says that she hopes this initiative will motivate students to become sustainable stewards and conserve resources to help make the world a better place for current and future generations.

CGCC students and faculty will participate in an interdisciplinary teach-in Wednesday and Thursday to discuss issues such as climate change, oil and alternative fuels, oil and human rights, food in the future, reducing our carbon footprint, personal consumption and production and consumption.

"Focus the Nation's teach-in and the preceding Webcast will provide the opportunity for our nation's youth to become leaders in the battle against the most significant threat of our time," said Julian Keniry, director of campus leadership for the National Wildlife Federation. "These events will challenge young people to develop solutions to protect the world from the devastating impact of global warming."

During the Webcast, participants may send in cellphone text messages on how they would spend \$100 billion in a clean energy revolution. Messages will be visible on the Earthday Network TV, which will broadcast the 2% Solution Webcast.

The teach-ins on Thursday will culminate with round-table discussions between students and elected officials before asking all participants to vote on their top five solutions on the Choose Your Future ballot.

Focus teams will deliver campus- and citizen-endorsed agendas to congressional offices across the nation on Feb. 18.

“As traditional hubs of innovation, colleges and universities have always helped our country move forward,” said Kevin Coyle, vice president of education for the National Wildlife Federation.

“Focus the Nation is providing a nationwide campus forum that brings young innovative minds together to seek solutions and demand change for a cleaner energy future.”

## **FOCUS THE NATION**

Focus the Nation is a national teach-in engaging students and citizens with political leaders and decision makers about global-warming solutions.

Information: For a detailed list of Arizona events and information about Focus the Nation go to [www.focusthenation.org](http://www.focusthenation.org).

Reprinted from *The Arizona Republic*  
January 28, 2008, pg. B4

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