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**Topic:** Education Academy

**Rationale:**

The HC Education Academy is a learning community for education majors at the Homestead Campus. Currently funded through a Learning Innovations grant, it is designed to support and enhance the education of future teachers. One of the key components of the Academy is a thematic approach that identifies a critical theme each term. The theme becomes the common focus for all courses offered by the community during that term.

The theme for the spring term of the second year of the Academy program is *Teaching in the Twenty-first Century*. Within the parameters of this theme, future educators will explore the issues related to teaching in the unfolding century. It is a component of this theme that Green Studies and Environmental Ethics will be introduced.

**Objectives:**

*The student will be able to:*

- Identify the key issues and critical concerns associated with environmental ethics for the 21st century.
- Articulate their role and personal responsibility with respect to the earth and its systems.
- Explore and determine the green studies issues most appropriate to introduce at the grade level of content area in which they intend to teach.

**Strategies:**

Three methods will be integrated throughout the World History, Diversity, Environmental Science courses offered during this term. These are:

- *Focused Readings* – Common core environmental ethics readings will be used as a basis for introducing Green Studies in all courses.
- *Concept Mapping* – Using inspiration software, students will create a concept map of environmental issues and their relationship to the various courses under study to determine the impact of humanity on the earth.
- *WebCT Conference* – Using WebCT's on-line conferencing tool, students will exchange views on key questions posed by the faculty learning community on environmental ethics and its role in education.

**Evaluation:**

Students will prepare a lesson plan for the grade level or content area of their choice that teaches their future students the basic concepts of Green Studies. The lesson plan will include the creation of Green Studies hands-on and mind-on activities

appropriate to the grade level. Students will teach the lesson that they create with their peers.

*Evaluation will be rubric-based and include the following scoring dimensions:*

- Inclusion of appropriate Environmental Ethics concepts,
- Fully articulated lesson plan,
- Students activities designed to meet diverse learners, and
- Profession presentation.

All lesson plans submitted will be bound with a copy for all members of the Academy. The bound plans will serve as an Environmental Ethics toolkit for use when they teach.