

### Statement by the President of St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, Florida

St. Thomas University is pleased to once again express its strong and active support for the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact. The Principles are very much promoted in the University curricula, not only in our Business School and Law School, but in our Science, Education and Social Sciences schools as well.

St. Thomas has always had an international impact through its many students from Latin America and the Caribbean. In recent years this international reach has expanded with the arrival of a large number of Chinese students, two-thirds of whom are doing graduate studies in our Business School. With the goal to expand the international reach of the University, the University Trustees in October 2014 declared the University a Global University whose aim is to provide global leadership in the South. The position of Sr. Vice President for Global Development was created and the Provost Emeritus and Honorary Consul for Slovenia was appointed to the position.

St. Thomas University, through its local and international students and outreach, will continue to promote the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

### St. Thomas University COE

St. Thomas University fully supports and inculcates the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact within the curricula for its undergraduate, graduate and law school students, as well as through the participation of faculty and administrators in regional business and educational associations. The areas where the university has been particularly active in involving the faculty, students, staff and the wider community is in Human Rights (Principle 1 & 2) and The Environment (Principles 7 – 9). Here are specific examples of these activities.

#### Human Rights

The main contribution of St. Thomas University to the development and implementation of human rights globally is its Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights. Led by Professors Siegfried Wiessner and Professor Roza Pati, and featuring global experts, it has graduated more than 350 LL.M. students from 80 countries since its inception in 2001. The program also sponsors the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review, now in its 11th year of publication and ranking No. 9 of 48 human rights law reviews globally. It also organizes the Susan J. Ferrell Intercultural Human Rights Moot Court Competition, which has attracted student teams from all

over the world.

Professor Dr. iur. Roza Pati, LL.M. is Executive Director of the Law School's LL.M. and J.S.D. Program in Intercultural Human Rights. Prof. Pati is the only U.S. member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the Vatican, an entity responsible for the development of Catholic social doctrine. She is also Director of the Human Trafficking Academy that has conducted several symposia on human trafficking. Her many original publications as well as lectures around the globe have earned Prof. Pati international recognition for her activities and leadership in the field. [www.humantrafficking.org](http://www.humantrafficking.org) provides free videos compiled by the Academy that offer access to numerous authorities on trafficking in human beings.

Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner, LL.M. is the Founder and Director of the Intercultural Human Rights Program. He also chaired the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008-2012), which developed ILA Resolution No. 5/2012 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, finding important rights to traditional lands, culture and self-government. He also is part of the faculty of the UN Audiovisual Library with his lecture and article on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Professor Dr. Mark J. Wolff directs the United Nations Internship Program at the UN Headquarters in New York and serves as a Representative for ICMICA (Pax Romana) to the United Nations in New York. Through this program students become fully accredited to the United Nations in New York representing permanent missions, IGO's and NGO's for an entire semester. This United Nations Internship operates full time and year-round. Saint Thomas University School of Law is the only American School of Law with a full time program at the United Nations in New York.

Since the early 1990s, the Law School also offers services to important immigrant communities through its Human Rights Institute, now under the directorship of Christina Reis, Esq.

in New York and serves as a Representative for ICMICA (Pax Romana) to the United Nations.

#### Environment - campus actions

“Dade Slash Pine” is a native tree unique on our campus. STU has contributed pine cones to the Florida Horticultural Division and in return 100 new young trees have been planted about the campus and along a nature trail created in the woods on our campus. The collaboration is ongoing.

STU has had a major, compulsory recycling program for a number of years and has recently negotiated a contract with the largest recycling company in Florida which will increase the efficiency of the program.

STU installed charge stations for electric cars and Car2Go provided small rental vehicles for the use of students and staff as part of the campus sustainability efforts

STU provided all students with attractive hard plastic water bottles to remove the need to purchase bottles of water in thin plastic containers that were thrown away after one use.

STU has negotiated large scale placement of solar panels on campus roofs in order to reduce the use of public utility electricity.

Environment - community outreach

February 18-19 – *1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Climate, Nature and Society*. Business leaders, innovators, leading experts, and academics will gather at [St. Thomas University](#) (STU) during this two-day conference, spearheaded by STU's Institute for Bioethics, to tackle the science and social impact of climate change with talks from leading experts in the field, including Cardinal Peter Turkson – Pope Francis' draftsman for his encyclical on climate, *Laudato Si'*.

The University Center for Ethics, in keeping with the UN Decade for Sustainable Development, conducted a program on Education for Ecological Sustainability attended by the campus environment responsible persons from ten regional universities.

The activities listed above are examples of how St. Thomas University observes and promotes the goals of the United Nations Global Compact.

Prof. Arthur Kane

Prof. Mark Wolff