

March 21, 2018

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. This was particularly true this year as we “adopted” student from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Our institutional 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 Professor Siegfried Wiessner and Professor Roza Pati, and featuring global experts, it has graduated more than 400 LL.M. students from 85 countries since its inception in 2001. The program also sponsors the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*, now in its 13th year of publication and ranking No. 6 of 48 human rights law reviews globally.

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, now part of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, an entity responsible for the development of Catholic social doctrine, issues of justice and peace as well as migration, health, charitable works and care of creation. 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 provides free videos compiled by the Academy that offer access to numerous authorities on trafficking in human beings. A \$2.5 million private gift will allow to further expand the pathbreaking activities of the Academy in offering educational training, victim counseling and their empowerment, as well as global research.

Professor Dr. iur. Siegfried Wiessner, LL.M. is the Founder and Director of the Intercultural Human Rights Program. He chaired the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008-2012). It developed ILA Resolution No. 5/2012 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which found rights to their traditional lands, culture and self-government under customary international law. He also is part of the faculty of the UN Audiovisual Library with his lecture and article on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the book series *Studies in Intercultural Human Rights* published by Martinus Nijhoff in The Hague.

Professor Dr. Mark J. Wolff directs the United Nations Internship Program at the UN Headquarters in New York City and serves as an Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the Order of Malta to the United Nations Headquarters 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. Some students work directly for the United Nations Secretariat. This United Nations Internship Program 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 at the Headquarters in New York.

In 1992 the St. Thomas University Human Rights Institute (HRI) was created to provide free immigration legal services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Since that date, HRI an integral component of St. Thomas University School of Law has served over 80,000 individuals with compassion and an unwavering dedication to provide exceptional direct legal services to the indigent. Today HRI has offices in Miami Dade and Broward Counties. HRI also serves as a "hands on" educational tool for the St. Thomas University Law School, providing a venue for our students to volunteer, complete their pro bono hours, or participate in internships. HRI is the embodiment of St. Thomas University's commitment to develop "Leaders for Life".

Environment - campus actions

"Dade Slash Pine" is a native tree unique on our campus. STU has an agreement with the Florida Forestry Department and DERM to allow them to harvest STU's pines when the state nursery is in need. When they harvest from our campus, we request 100-300 of STU's pine seedlings returned to us, depending on viable seedlings.

STU has had a major, compulsory recycling program for a number of years. Every office has been provided a recycling bin that accepts comingled recycling, which means all paper, plastic, glass and aluminum is accepted in the container. All employees are responsible to dispose of their recyclables in the totes outside each building.

STU installed charging stations for electric cars. These charging stations are available to students, faculty and staff.

STU introduced LimeBike to our campus. LimeBike technology is integrated into smart bikes and a smart phone app. We currently have 120 active bikes on campus available for faculty, students and staff.

STU has negotiated large scale placement of solar panels on campus roofs in order to reduce the use of public utility electricity. In addition, we have a solar generator which is used regularly to provide on-demand power needed to run outdoor events on campus.

STU worked with the Florida Forestry Department and DERM to begin the Nature Trail located on the north end of the campus. Several native plants are identified with signage containing information details about the plants throughout the 0.25 mile path.

Environment - community outreach

May 25-June 1 – 2018 The University Center for Ethics, will host the *Rome & Assisi Spirituality and Sustainability Conference*. The goals for this conference is to explore the breakdown of civilization in the Anthropocene and breakthrough from Cenozoic Era to Ecozoic Era; explore common ground for ecological sustainability across wisdom traditions of world religions and indigenous spirituality; explore practical tools, both spiritual and organizational for personal, social and ecological transformation as well as to identify young leaders seeking transformative global change based on spirituality and sustainability. Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, a native of Ghana, will make a presentation and engage in dialogue on Pope Francis famous 2015 encyclical letter on ecology, *Laudato Si'*.

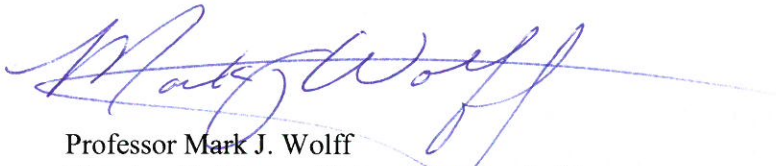
The activities listed above are examples of how St. Thomas University observes and promotes the goals of the United Nations Global Compact.

February 18-19 – *1st 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.

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Respectfully Submitted,



Professor Mark J. Wolff
Director, St. Thomas University School of Law
United Nations Externship Program in New York