Dear R2G Student,

It is hard to believe, but Cornell’s Rust2Green (R2G) Action Research Project will attain its 10th anniversary in January 2020. Every year as we start a new round of Rust2Green activities and bring on new students, my colleagues and I reflect on our past students and wonder how you are doing. We often wonder if there were experiences with us that continue to have effects on you today. We wonder if you still use the skills you learned, or if you elected to work in public engagement. Our new students are wondering about those same questions. Rather than simply wondering, we have decided to do something about it – we are going to ask you about it.

Therefore, we are delighted to be writing to inform you about the Rust2Green Evaluation Project. A 10th year anniversary makes this an opportune moment for reflection on how R2G has had an effect on the people and places it has touched. Continuing in our own tradition, we are launching an evaluation in a highly collaborative and participatory inquiry method– and are asking you to include your voice as we assess our past and plan our evolving future. As an R2G university student participant, there is no question you’ve played a valuable part in contributing to tangible impacts and outcomes in Utica and/or Binghamton, as well as on campus. We will be asking about both student and community outcomes, and you will have a chance to contribute to both, but student outcomes are to be your priority for now. Are you willing to help us learn more?

Specifically, we are launching an online brainstorming session asking a single question – how did the program affect you? But you should respond multiple times with many ideas. After all, it is very likely that you learned many things or had many outcomes. For example, maybe you learned something about yourself or communities at the time of your participation. If you continued with that interest, it later could have built into skill, expertise, and excellence on the job or in your other activities. There were many different activities you may have been engaged in – research, activism, community interactions, project management, critical reflection, landscape or design, workshop development, etc. We are hoping to identify the immediate short-term outcomes of participation, but also hope you can identify some that came later – perhaps as you furthered your education or built a career.

Participation should only take a few (5-10) minutes. It may take longer if you decide to browse our website about the project – there is a lot of information to share. We are using a tried and true methodology, called concept mapping, which was developed by another Cornell faculty, and uses crowd sourcing to organize data into meaningful ways to contribute to evaluation and program planning. After the brainstorming, there were will be couple more activities in analyzing and structuring the ideas we collect.

We believe that you will find this a fascinating project, and sincerely hope that you will, at a minimum, choose to participate and add your thoughts to the brainstorming phase of the project. A few moments of your time will contribute significantly to helping university students better understand how participating in R2G has contributed to the careers and professions of our previous students. That would indeed be a gift of foresight.

Please click here to participate.
To summarize:

- We are launching an online brainstorming session asking a single question – how have you been affected by being a student in R2G?
- You should respond multiple times in order to provide many answers/ideas.
- Different activities had different outcomes, and your activities may have included research, civic engagement, community interactions, project management, critical reflection, landscape or design, collaboration, and workshop development, among others.
- Think about short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes (during your experience, a year later, a few years later).
- A few minutes of your time will contribute significantly to helping university students better understand how participating in R2G has contributed to the careers and professions of our previous students.
- Participation will be anonymous, but every voice is important.
- If you remain in touch with other R2G students, please feel free to forward this invitation to them.

Please [click here to participate](#).

Thank you. We are excited about this project, and are looking forward to sharing the results with you.

Best wishes,

Professor Shorna Allred (R2G Binghamton)

and

Professor Paula Horrigan (R2G Utica)