Strengthening Education & Communities Through Collaboration
About Us

• The mission of the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) is for its members to collaborate to enhance educational services and programs in the region.

• Our members are diverse in types and missions, and include both community colleges and universities.

• We are a unique partnership between public, private and for-profit higher education institutions.

• SMHEC extends south from the city of Chicago to the western border of Joliet, the southern border of Kankakee and east to the Illinois-Indiana state line.

• SMHEC member institutions educate 81,000 students each year and offer over 700 certificate and degree programs.
Through committees, administrators, faculty and staff of member institutions collaborate to leverage resources, enhance programs, and execute projects that address institutional priorities.
Link and Leverage

- As a program under SMHEC, the various regions involved were established to engage their communities in becoming more sustainable. Principle objectives include:
  - Fostering cross-community collaboration
  - Providing a vehicle for building upon existing initiatives
  - Supporting innovative and effective projects
  - Facilitating the sharing of resources
  - Promoting successes, build excitement, and catalyze collaboration
The History of Link and Leverage

- **2014**
  SMHEC launches a regional effort to "link" and "leverage" community resources to make the Chicago southland the "greenest region"

- **2015**
  SMHEC partners with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

- **2016**
  SMHEC creates three distinct sub-regions

- **2018**
  SMHEC formally launches the Will County Regional Sustainability Network at the GreenTown Will County Conference

- **2019**
  SMHEC formally launches the Prairie State Regional Sustainability Network through the Growing Sustainable Communities Together Conference
Thank You To Our Sponsors
For more information, visit www.southmetroed.org.

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