



Pocahontas Leadership Collaborative

“Pocahontas is one of those characters, rarely appearing on the theatre of life, which no age can claim, no country appropriate. She is the property of mankind, serving as a beacon to light us on our way, instruct us in our duty, and show us what the human mind is capable of performing when abandoned to its own operations.” William Watson Waldron, 19th Century Author

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A little more than 400 years ago Pocahontas, barely a teenager, boldly stepped into a history-shaping leadership role by acting on her instincts and beliefs in the face of extreme uncertainty and adversity. Through her hope and purposeful action, Pocahontas literally changed the future course of world history. As we enter 2021 mankind is facing the extreme uncertainty and adversity caused by COVID-19, coupled with growing global social and political unrest, all on top of an expanding climate and environmental crisis. A sustainable future for all mankind hangs in the balance and is fully dependent on the power of hopeful and purposeful action from our young citizens.

The ***Pocahontas Leadership Collaborative (PLC)*** is a new student collaboration concept promoting diverse social development and leadership skills through the lens of the life example of the woman most famously known as Pocahontas. Coordinated and facilitated by ***The Pocahontas Project*** (the Project), all **PLC** student efforts will in some way support the goals and objectives of the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***. Called a ***PLC Ambassador***, each participating student will have a direct connection to the Project as they become involved in and support programs of their choosing. The Project will facilitate connections between PLC Ambassadors in the same school, as well as other states, provinces and countries. While it is expected that most **PLC** student leaders will be teenagers, students of all ages are invited to join in and help shape our collective future. Ultimately, the primary **PLC** objective is to inspire and organize a global community of student leaders working with common hope and purpose for a sustainable future for all mankind.

The **PLC** was first implemented in the fall of 2020 at Gloucester High School in Virginia (PLC@GHS) and these student leaders are currently crafting their 2021 strategic action plans, working with the Project, Gloucester County Schools and the community of Gloucester. The Project plans to establish a **PLC** connection at a high school in the Williamsburg and Richmond

VA regions in the first half of 2021, and then use its experience gained to create a template for the development of other **PLC** connections in schools across Virginia and around the world.

PLC Global Collaboration Intentions and Objectives

With the Project as its hub, the **PLC** concept intends to become a platform affecting growing collaboration between students in schools across the USA and around the world. The Project will facilitate the efforts of each PLC Ambassador to shape a sustainable future for their family, their local community, and for all mankind. The Project will also connect each student to the global network of PLC Ambassadors, facilitating and coordinating their collective efforts. In order to support its global collaboration objectives, especially the development of student leaders around the world, the **PLC** brand will promote:

- The many leadership qualities Pocahontas presented in the face of uncertainty and adversity, including: ***Hope, Purpose, Critical Thinking, Civic Involvement, Shared Responsibility, and Perseverance***
- The positive power of ***Diversity*** and ***Cross-Cultural Understanding***
- The ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan*** and its attention to the 17 United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)

Becoming a PLC Ambassador – Opportunities and Benefits

In an effort to inspire and reward participation, the Project offers a growing list of opportunities and benefits to students who sign up to be a PLC Ambassador. Interested students are first asked to become a Participant in the ***Matoaka Covenant*** (\$25 dues in 2021), which offers access to the 10 class ***Pocahontas and the Virginia Indians*** on-line course and a copy of the thought provoking pictorial called ***Pocahontas and After***. Then, through a survey and information presented on its website, the Project will work individually with each PLC Ambassador to help them choose programs they want to support and define connections they want to make – locally, nationally and internationally.

In return for their efforts in support of the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***, the Project will personalize opportunities and benefits for each student PLC Ambassador, including recognition for service to community hours, letters of recommendation defining their efforts and results, and introductions to people and organizations in their home community and around the world. It is hoped and expected that becoming a PLC Ambassador will be a multi-year experience, extending beyond secondary school, which will increase the positive impact of the Project's personalized approach.

Two Signature PLC Initiatives

In support of the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***, the Project is developing two signature initiatives intended to be primary connection points for PLC Ambassadors around the world:

1) Pocahontas Gardens

The numerous health, environmental, and social benefits of community gardens and community gardening cross over all of mankind's arbitrary boundaries and can be practiced and

enjoyed by people of all ages around the world. **Pocahontas Gardens** will be the name of both the physical gardens and the collaborative mindset of this **PLC** initiative, using Pocahontas as our guide. Ultimately, each **Pocahontas Garden** will be a physical (gardening), intellectual (STEM), and spiritual undertaking, creating community collaboration along the way. The initiative's strategic plan involves growing and installing plants native to the region and connecting every **Pocahontas Garden** with indigenous methods, crops, history and traditions whenever possible. Every **Pocahontas Garden** will be designed and operated to benefit local underserved communities in mind, body and spirit. And, in following Pocahontas' life example, PLC Ambassadors will use their gardens and collective energy to support local food distribution efforts to those underserved citizens.

2) Recycling is Magic

The **Recycling is Magic** (RIM) initiative has been developed to significantly increase both the volume and the quality of recycling performed by individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and governments across America and around the world. Through the leadership of PLC Ambassadors, RIM will inform and educate communities about the critical importance of the actions of recycling and re-use, and their relationship to the future quality of our environment, and will use the art of magic to inspire and reward recyclers. The Project will coordinate the efforts of PLC Ambassadors across the country and around the world to enhance recycling in their schools and to influence government, non-profit and corporate leaders to invest in the recycling facility infrastructure necessary to handle the increased volume.

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Presented by Rick Tatnall
The Pocahontas Project
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