



First and last name:

John Sutherlin

VLS degree(s) and class year(s):

MELP'17

What is your vision for VLS in the next five years?

Assist in strengthening the alumni base and activities; expand VLS awareness; and provide support for VLS Directors in fulfilling their duties.

What skills do you bring to the VLSAA to accomplish these priorities?

I am the Chief Innovation & Research Officer at the University of Louisiana. I maintain a teaching schedule as well. I understand the career needs of students wanting to make a difference in environmental law and policy. I teach both and consult in both. I bring academic and professional abilities. Also, I can assist with collaborative efforts for joint degree programs.

How would you galvanize the energy and enthusiasm of alumni to increase participation in VLS events and giving?

I have taken the initiative to reach out to all VLS alumni in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf States. We can provide opportunities for student internships, jobs, and other networking experiences. I know how to do this and do it.

List and describe your alumni service.

Because of my position, I have been asked many times to work in an alumni capacity. I have limited myself to raising money and awareness for other universities. However, I am very grateful for the knowledge I gained through VLS. I am willing to serve.

List your activities as a VLS student.

I was an online student and had limited opportunities. That should change. Alumni from online experiences often feel left out. Need to engage more. I can help.

List any appropriate professional and community activities, and please describe how that experience would serve you as a board member.

I have served on many research and educational boards. I am an academic. However, I also worked for more than a decade as a board member of a UK-based environmental company. I know what is needed from professionals to make a difference in that sector.

Having reviewed the standing committees on the VLSAA Board, which committee(s) would you choose to serve on and why?

I am, of course, willing to serve in whatever capacity I am needed. However, I feel that my best fit would be mentoring (since I have been a professor since 1997 and have served in that capacity across the US); and regional groups, as I would like to improve the awareness and activity of Gulf State alumni.

Discuss whether you have the resources and ability to make the board a priority over the next three years.

Part of my job requires community service. I would be glad to commit to helping VLS as I have benefitted so much from my degree. This is a commitment of time and resources that I am glad to make.