

THE SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION MBA

CHANGE IS OUR BUSINESS
WHAT WE BELIEVE
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LAUNCH
GET IN TOUCH
APPLY NOW



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GROSSMAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Taylor Ralph '17,
Product Impact, Burton Snowboards



**CHANGE
IS OUR
BUSINESS**

The Sustainable Innovation MBA program (SI-MBA) at The University of Vermont's Grossman School of Business is an accelerated one-year program that focuses on the essential toolkit needed to manage – and transform – business. The one-year learning experience has our graduates back into the world and making an impact in half the time and with half the tuition needed for a more traditional MBA.

Our vision is for business to be a catalyst for change. Many of the environmental and social challenges we face are due to how businesses have operated, which is a reflection of how business has been taught. We're here to change that.

Our program has been and continues to be the U.S.'s [highest ranked green MBA program](#) accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the most prestigious accrediting body for business programs. Only 5% of programs worldwide earn this honor. AACSB accreditation means that our curriculum, faculty, and program governance regularly pass an in-depth review by academic business experts. We strive to be the best in our field, and we continually revise our curriculum and extracurricular activities with input from leading sustainability thought leaders.

Businesses of the future need to work for people and the planet. For that to happen, we need to evolve how business is taught. That's what we're here to do. **CHANGE IS OUR BUSINESS.**





WHAT WE BELIEVE

SI-MBA volunteer service trip to the Intervale Center, Burlington, VT, during Class of 2023 Orientation week.

1 BUSINESS IS THE ENGINE OF CHANGE.

Business as usual is not an option. We created the Sustainable Innovation MBA program to prepare the individuals needed to build and manage companies in a world undergoing essential transformational change. SI-MBA aims to develop the next generation of leaders who will transform, disrupt, innovate, and build businesses and enterprises in a world of sustainability challenges caused by accelerating climate change, the collapse of ecosystems, and increasing economic and environmental inequality.

Profits are not the problem, They are necessary to build thriving companies that are inclusive, diverse, and committed to creating the energy, transportation, manufacturing, agricultural, and housing systems of the future. A sustainable business is innovative and purpose-driven, providing goods or services without harming its community or the planet while contributing to a just society.

2 BUSINESS EDUCATION SHOULD CONSTANTLY EVOLVE.

This program is high-touch, intensive, and 100% in-person. Do not expect to spend time alone in the library, but do expect to stay engaged by the members of your cohort, [our faculty and staff](#), our alumni, and the universe of sustainability and social justice champions who are enthusiastic to welcome new SI-MBA students into our community.

3 INNOVATION STARTS WITH COLLABORATION.

We believe that learning to be an effective team member is critical to success as a changemaker and to business in general. Students work in teams to complete group work and learn collaboratively. Feedback sessions and related programming take place over the duration of the program. Many of our alumni cite this cohort model as a highlight of their SI-MBA experience. Our focus has always been on cooperation rather than competition, which is an essential skill needed to become an effective changemaker.



In 2018, a team from the Sustainable Innovation MBA won the Total Impact Portfolio Challenge, an annual "100% ESG and impact" portfolio construction competition for graduate students developed by Wharton Social Impact Initiative with SOCAP Global.

HOW WE WORK

Cy Kuppersmith '19
Owner, Sunset Lake CBD

1 WE SPEND ONE YEAR TOGETHER.

Traditional full-time MBA programs typically take two years, with the first year dedicated largely to “core” courses and the second year focusing on electives in an area of functional specialization. To get students back into the real-world sooner, we designed the SI-MBA program from a clean sheet, allowing us to select the most critical set of core knowledge, skills, and capabilities that every MBA must know, while also infusing it with the skills, tools, and perspectives of sustainable innovation.

We begin by requiring that all students complete a suite of self-paced, online tutorials before they start in-person classes in late August. Covering this fundamental material (that often occupies a lot of time in the first year of traditional MBAs) in this manner enables us to bring all of our incoming students up to speed on basic concepts in accounting, statistics, economics, and finance, regardless of their prior education or business experience.

The one-year SI-MBA program is structured in four modules of eight weeks each. Each module comprises a series of short, intense courses. The classroom-based learning is fast paced, interactive, and grounded in real-world knowledge. Along with the summer practicum, the rigorous course structure is augmented by talks from real-world innovators and workshops with practitioners. [Learn more about The Sustainable Innovation MBA curriculum.](#)

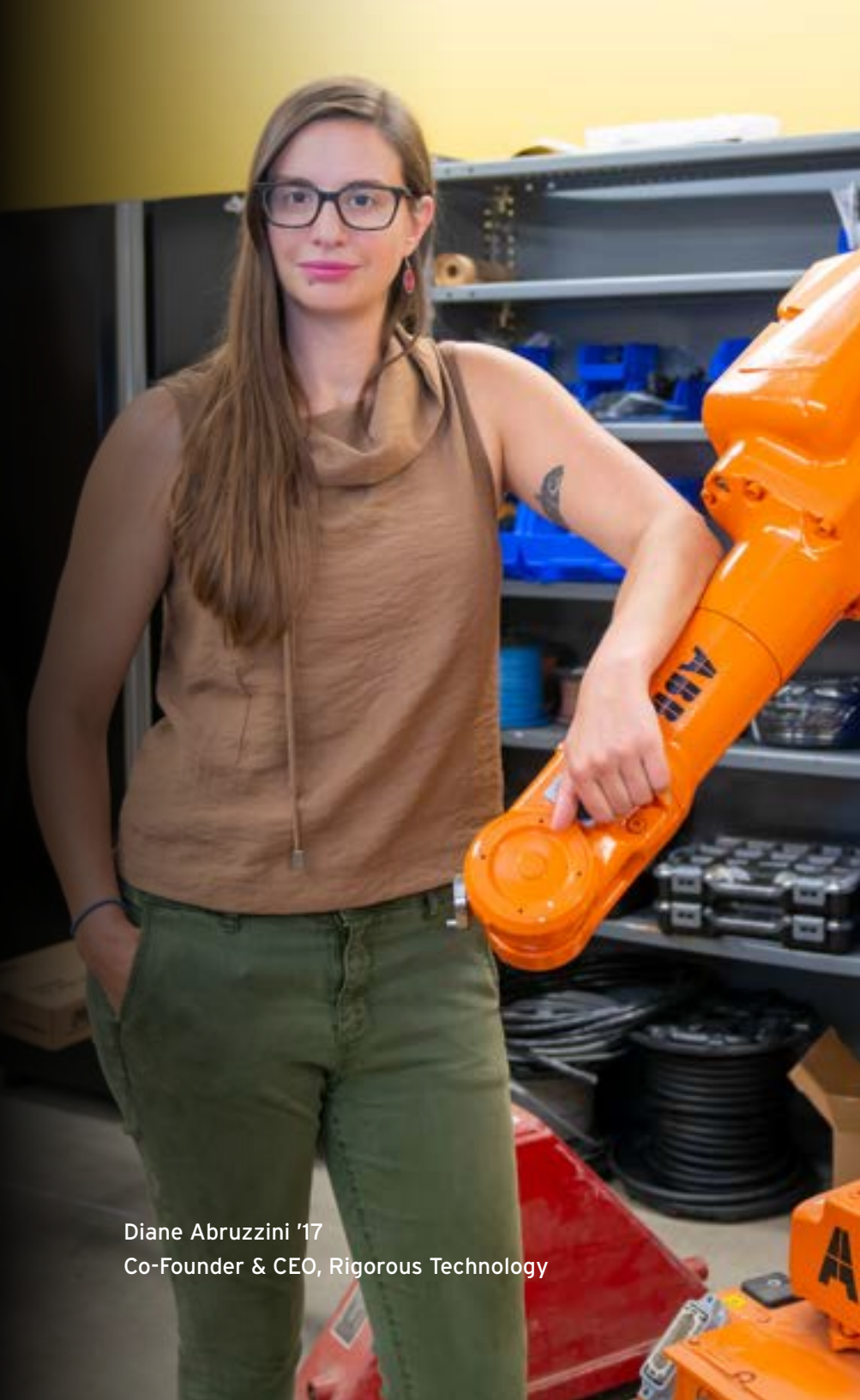
The students in each cohort learn and grow together as a cohesive group, forming life-long professional and personal relationships with students who may have very different interests but share a common belief in the power of business to catalyze positive change. Your cohort becomes your **close-knit** family with whom you'll debate, disagree, and collaborate into the wee hours of the morning. Once you begin, you immediately join a larger community of hundreds of like-minded alumni, professionals, faculty, and staff.

2 WE INCORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY INTO EVERY CLASS.

SI-MBA was built from the ground-up to integrate environmental, social, and governance considerations into the MBA curriculum. It means our graduates develop holistic, interdisciplinary approaches that help businesses grow profitably and sustainably. For example, when you learn the tools of financial decision-making, you also learn why they often lead to short-term thinking that is inconsistent with sustainable business practices.



Ruchi Nadkarni '20
Senior Consultant, FSG



Diane Abruzzini '17
Co-Founder & CEO, Rigorous Technology

3 WE EXPAND THE MBA TOOLKIT.

The SI-MBA program focuses on the tools needed to manage business today and lead through change tomorrow. Our graduates go into the world with the knowledge and skills they need to become change agents in their chosen fields.

SI-MBA takes a critical perspective on the traditional tools and techniques of business. Functionally oriented courses not only ensure competence, but also examine the negative externalities of applying traditional business tools such as industry analysis, competitive strategy, marketing strategy, supply chain optimization, discounted cash flow, internal rate of return, and financial reporting. We ask, what do the traditional tools miss? What are the blind spots? What unintended consequences result from their uncritical application?

A SAMPLE OF PRACTICUM PARTNERS

BEAUTYCOUNTER



Microsoft

MORNINGSTAR

4 WE LEARN BY DOING.

The capstone experience of the SI-MBA program is a practicum project – a hands-on, full-time consulting engagement with an existing or emerging business. Students work as consultants on sustainability-related innovation challenges that have been proposed by sponsoring companies. Host organizations have included leading B Corporations, sustainable development consultancies, early-stage social enterprises, and globally recognized companies seeking to advance sustainable and inclusive business practices. By the end of July, students pitch their comprehensive business/action plans to a panel of faculty, businesspeople, entrepreneurs, and financiers, along with representatives of the host organizations.

In addition to the practicum project, extra-curricular events and activities are a critical part of our program. There are weekly networking events, alumni gatherings, “innovators in residence,” visits by internationally recognized experts in sustainability and social justice, as well as opportunities to participate in national and international case competitions to increase expertise and specialized networks.



Jeff Lue '19
General Manager, Wasted*PBC



WHAT WE'RE DOING

Our accelerated one-year program provides you with the tools to transform business. When you graduate from the SI-MBA program, you join a community of changemakers that transcends graduation cohort, united by a shared belief in the power of business to change the world. Our alumni network is growing fast but still closely connected. Our alumni launch from our Burlington, Vermont campus to different sectors in business and NGOs around the world. [See how our alumni are creating an impact.](#)

ADITI DATTA '17
BRAND LEAD
BREEF
INDUSTRY: BRANDING



"I learned so much during my year of SI-MBA but what I've carried with me is that when things are challenging, one of the best things you can do is seek out feedback... especially in the world of sustainability."

HARRY GREENE '16

**CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER &
CO-FOUNDER
PROPAGATE VENTURES
INDUSTRY: AG & CLIMATE TECH**



“Understand your own personality, and what you’re good at. Emotional intelligence opens doors; delivery and follow-through create value. Balance both.”

RILEY NELSON '22

**DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY
NASCAR
INDUSTRY: SPORTS**



“I love that it’s a one year program because that means we can get back out in the world and make change quicker than a traditional two year MBA program.”

TOR DWORSHAK '19
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
GLAVEL
INDUSTRY: SUSTAINABLE
MATERIALS



“There’s so much energy towards affecting change and disrupting the status quo out there, you just have to find it. The SI-MBA program puts you in the middle of that world and gives you the necessary tools to thrive in it.

MELINA HARRIS '21
DATA ANALYST
PHILADELPHIA ANCHORS
FOR GROWTH AND EQUITY
INDUSTRY: INVESTING



“SI-MBA taught me that every aspect of the organizational organism is critical to its success or failure; think optimization over maximization. By understanding a bit of everything, you can be much more effective at creating change...”

ADAM "APOLON" POLONSKI '21
CO-FOUNDER
LOST LANTERN WHISKEY
INDUSTRY: BEVERAGE



"We have to build something that makes capitalism better for the earth and for the world around us. That's really part of why I wanted to do the Sustainable Innovation MBA program - to learn how to work and change from within while building my own company."

ALYSSA STANKIEWICZ '19
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF
SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH
MORNINGSTAR
INDUSTRY: ESG INSIGHTS



"Without SI-MBA's holistic integration of sustainability, I might not have considered the investment industry's role in the transition to a more sustainable future - let alone a career for myself leading that transition."

**WHERE
WE
ARE**





Vermont is a vibrant ecosystem for sustainable business. The Grossman School of Business at the University of Vermont is situated at the heart of one of the most progressive business environments in the world. SI-MBA students meet and learn from globally recognized sustainable business leaders who are on the forefront of redefining the role of business in society.

Even in our charming rural setting, SI-MBA students regularly engage with business leaders from across the world through our Innovators in Residence program. Leaders in sustainable business regularly visit campus throughout the year for lectures, interactive case analysis, and networking opportunities. These experiences, presented exclusively for SI-MBA students, provide an open and intimate forum to hear from and network with thought leaders from diverse sectors, backgrounds, and locations – conveniently in the classroom.

VERMONT-BASED BUSINESSES



HOW WE CONNECT



LAUNCH

Aspiring changemakers come to our program with different experiences, goals, desires, and ideas for how to make an impact. Whether it's a clear vision of the next step after SI-MBA or figuring it out during the year, our team is thinking about your future from your first day. You'll connect with business leaders through our [Innovators in Residence program](#) and meet alumni in our [Changemaker Network](#) when they visit campus for talks and career panels. The practicum project is designed for you to work closely with organizations that you might even want to work with after graduation.

Most importantly, we have a strong career advisory program and will help you prepare for the next step. We'll give you the tools to confidently tackle the job search. We'll help you define your personal brand and narrative, and work to connect you with the innovators that you want to work with. We're invested in your future, because we know you're going to do great things.

GET IN TOUCH

We'd love to connect with you and answer any questions you have. Email us at SI-MBA@uvm.edu.

APPLY NOW

Ready to apply? We look forward to hearing from you. [Begin the application process.](#)

CONTACT US



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