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Engineering the Nature of Change: A Presidential Dream Course on Nature-Based Solutions R.W. Nairn*, D.M. Dorman, and R.C. Knox, Center for Restoration of Ecosystems and Watersheds, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA. nairn@ou.edu

Transferring the passion of reclamation practitioners to academia presents challenges. Even in community-engaged and service-learning coursework, and in research, laboratory, and field classes, only the instructor's perspective is provided. Recognizing these challenges, the University of Oklahoma (OU) began the Presidential Dream Course program in 2004. The call for proposals for these courses asks "What sort of classes would OU faculty members devise if money were no object? They would bring in the best quest lecturers in their fields to stimulate interest and inspire students to delve more deeply." A Dream Course entitled "Engineering the Nature of Change" was taught in spring 2023. The course examined the premise that solving our many environmental challenges requires a revolution in our thinking of the relationship between humanity and the planet. The class was designed to explore ecological engineering, Engineering With Nature, natural infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. The course enrolled nearly 30 students from five academic majors. With funding provided by the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, five Distinguished Speakers were brought to campus. Speakers provided class quest lectures prompting conversations on specific topics. Well-publicized and well-attended evening Public Lectures were live-streamed and recorded. Speakers included representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the private sector, and academia. Topics included Engineering With Nature and resilient infrastructure, the National Nature Assessment, passive treatment form and function, the circular economy, and an historical accounting of ecological engineering over the past 50 years. Substantial on and off campus community interest led to an extraordinary experience for both enrolled students and a much broader audience.