Humanity is at crossroads without historical precedent. Because of the extraordinary and exponential growth of population and the expansive dynamic of industrial capitalism, humans have become pervasive and dominant forces in the health and well being of the earth and its inhabitants. Despite all the work society has done on environmental protection, all living systems are in long-term decline and are declining at an increasing rate, we are severely disrupting the stability of the climate which made human progress to date possible and there are huge social, economic and public health challenges worldwide.

This is happening with 25% of the world’s population consuming 70-80% of the world’s resources. How will we ensure that current and future humans will be healthy, and live in strong, secure, thriving communities? This is the greatest moral, intellectual and social challenge human civilization has ever faced.

Marginal improvements to business as usual will not work. We need a transformative shift in the way we think act individually and collectively and higher education must lead the way in our role to provide the knowledge and the educated citizenry for a thriving civil society.

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