Switzerland's Glion Institute of Higher Education is exposing enrollees to the types of modern-day sustainability standards sweeping the luxury hospitality industry.

Geared toward igniting the future leaders' passion for eco-friendly operations, the school's International Hospitality Business Master's students recently participated in a professional development event. Experts joined the one-day "2030 SDG Hospitality Summit" workshop, which encouraged attendees to align strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (U.N. SDGs).

Plotting paths to 2030

Tasked with creating and simulating a professional conference, lecturers Johanna Wagner and Carina Hopper helped the nearly 70 students in attendance execute a 15-minute panel discussion centered around respective sets of SDGs.

The cofounders of Back to School for the Planet, a nonprofit aimed at supporting lifelong learning in sustainability, parlayed performances into a two-hour hospitality summit, presenting varied stakeholder perspectives on the hospitality industry's path to global SDG achievement by 2030.
Glion Institute students were invited to take on "CEO" and "general manager" roles, each set in the year 2030, proposing innovative solutions aimed at transforming corporate ESG initiatives with the future in mind.

Highlights include excerpts from "Communication Crews" enacted on each team. These individuals channeled the day's messages into digital assets intended for use across newsletters, websites and social media, tailoring content to real-world sustainability scenarios.

Throughout the event, similar approaches embraced the task of driving meaningful change within high-end hospitality, a concept that the institute has always attempted to push forward holistically, most recently through the launch of a new seven-semester bachelor's degree program in luxury management (see story).