

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Duluth Campus

Facilities Management

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August 2, 2011

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, STARS Program

From: Candice Richards, UMD Facilities Management

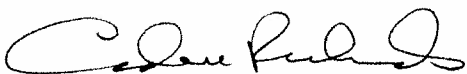
Re: Verification of UMD Innovation Category Credit on the UMD Edible Landscape Project

In 2010, the University of Minnesota Duluth campus began a program that replaced sod and other open areas with edible vegetable gardens. Participants included a wide variety of campus groups and departments including UMD Office of Civic Engagement, UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP), Students for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA), UMD Department of Anthropology, UMD Department of Geography, UMD Department of Biology, UMD Facilities Management, UMD Health Services, University for Seniors, UMD Summer Senior Program, and the UMD Sustainability Office.

The three largest gardens grown in 2010 were the Burlap Sack garden, the Salsa Garden, and the Three Sisters Garden. Each of these gardens were constructed by volunteers in April and May of 2010, and they acted as collaborative efforts between programs and departments from across the UMD campus.

The largest benefit of having edible gardens on campus (besides growing delicious produce) was the educational value of the gardens. The gardens served as a learning tool, and were linked with several classes and student groups. The support these gardens gained has led to continuation of the Edible Landscapes project into the 2011 growing season. We look forward to reporting the results of the 2011 Edible Landscape program next year.

Sincerely,



Candice Richards
UMD Facilities Management
Associate Director, Buildings and Grounds