

August 2, 2012

Dear AASHE STARS Review Committee,

WKU seeks an Innovation Credit for being a Fair Trade University.

In 2011, WKU became a Fair Trade University (the fourth in the United States). This effort was led by students in the student organization, *Americans for an Informed Democracy* (AID). They created the Fair Trade Resolution and sought and received support from university Dining Services (Aramark), Student Government Association, Staff Council, and Faculty Senate. They then went to the President to seek his support. The Resolution commits the university to bring Fair Trade food to campus events, offices and catered meetings as well as sell fair trade products in the WKU Store.

The Fair Trade Resolution was signed by President Ransdell during the *United Students for Fair Trade convergence*, hosted by WKU AID students in March of 2011. The convergence was attended by more than 100 students from 40 colleges and high schools all over the country. The goal of the convergence was to provide students with the tools to bring Fair Trade to schools across the nation, according to the program. Participants went to workshops, lectures and a market with fair trade products, which means workers were paid a fair price to make the items.

The Resolution can be viewed at:

[http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=ustfa&sei-redirect=1#search="wku+fair+trade+resolution"](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=ustfa&sei-redirect=1#search=)

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information or with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Christian Ryan-Downing
WKU Sustainability Coordinator