

February 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the EPA OnCampus ecoAmbassador Program, at the University of Northern Iowa, meets the criteria necessary for an Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

In my current role, I serve as University Sustainability Coordinator and liaison for these interns as they interact with UNI administration on a daily basis. Through this experience I have witnessed firsthand the outstanding changes that they have been able to implement as a result of this new partnership with EPA.

The EPA OnCampus ecoAmbassador Program is led by Office of Public Engagement (OPE) staff located in EPA's Headquarters Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education (OEAE) within the Office of the Administrator. OEAE's mission is to expand the environmental conversation by reaching out to less traditional stakeholders and engaging with them about environmental issues, as well as to provide timely and accurate information to the media and public concerning the Agency's activities to protect human health and the environment.

In this first year of the EPA OnCampus program, 20 schools have been brought onboard as OnCampus ecoAmbassadors for the 2010 - 2011 academic year. These unpaid volunteers serve as liaisons for EPA on their campuses. The University of Northern Iowa is one of the represented institutions. Their three interns are the sole OnCampus representatives for all of EPA Region 7.

The OnCampus Team interacts on a regular basis with the OnCampus ecoAmbassadors including weekly one-on-one calls. The Team also works with managers of EPA voluntary programs including ENERGY STAR, WasteWise, Green Power Partnership, and the Pesticides Environmental Stewardship Program. In addition the Team interfaces with representatives in each of EPA's Regional Offices.

Serving in the capacity of ecoAmbassadors, interns conduct the following activities:

- Manage the day-to-day oversight of the OnCampus Program including weekly one-on-one calls.
- Schedule and develop monthly national conference calls with the ecoAmbassadors to discuss their progress and relevant EPA voluntary programs.
- Provide oversight and encourage participation in the online collaboration site, OnCampus Connector.
- Assist ecoAmbassadors with decisions regarding environmental voluntary programs they are implementing on their campus and surrounding community.
- Provide valuable input to the OnCampus Team regarding process enhancement and strategic vision for completing a successful pilot program

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any portion of this innovative program further. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric O'Brien
University Sustainability Coordinator
University of Northern Iowa