



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

January 19, 2016

STARS Committee

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Committee,

I am writing to affirm that the Williams College first year orientation program ROOT is worthy of an innovation credit for the STARS report.

Although sustainability is known to be broader than just environmentalism, the widening of the dialogue around sustainability is a challenging one. I have personally dedicated entire career in higher education sustainability to the broadening of this understanding and can speak to its difficulty.

In ROOT, the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives and the Davis Center orient first year students to the college by introducing the idea that the concepts of environmental stewardship, identity, inclusion, and diversity do belong in the same conversation.

This program provides hands-on experiential learning and discussions that facilitate students' engagement with and interrogation of the environmental and social components of sustainability. This holistic approach to Williams's first year orientation program is a great step forward in developing a campus culture that understands the interconnectedness between the societal, environmental and economic spheres of sustainability.

For these reasons, I believe the Williams College first year orientation program merits a STARS innovation credit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joshua J. Stoffel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joshua J. Stoffel
Co-Director, Office of Sustainability

Connecticut College
270 Mohegan Ave.
New London, CT