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Dear Mr. Jensen:

This letter confirms that Arizona State University has demonstrated sustainability leadership by creating a minor in sustainability that can complement a student's major in another academic discipline. This innovative 18-credit program became available to students during the fall 2010 semester. It enables undergraduate students to learn the fundamental principles of sustainability, explore challenges of sustainability, and learn what determines the sustainability of human institutions, organizations, cultures and technologies in different environments from local to global scales.

The minor is available for undergraduate students in all major programs that do not already offer a sustainability minor or concentration. The series of courses introduce sustainability principles and explain how sustainability relates to various academic disciplines and professional fields. In addition to two new courses on sustainability principles, students will be required to take courses that touch on two of four themes: Earth Systems; Human Transformation of the Earth; Coupled Human-Environment Systems; and Social, Political, and Economic Treatment of Natural Resources and Environment.

The minor allows students unable to commit to a sustainability major to apply sustainability principles and practices to their own field of study. An increasing number of companies and agencies ask for students with a sustainability background, and the minor in sustainability is designed to offer a path for students to create their own jobs in the area of sustainability.

While Arizona State University has long requested that faculty in all disciplines incorporate sustainability into their coursework, I believe we are the first institution to offer a minor in sustainability that can be incorporated into such a wide range of disciplines.

Sincerely,



Sander E. van der Leeuw, Dean