



Middlebury  
College

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April 15, 2017

Dear STARS Committee,

Middlebury College's School of the Environment (MSoE) is an innovative, unique six-week summer program for college undergraduates. The School combines the experience of one of the best undergraduate environmental studies programs in the U.S. with an intensive summer methodology.

A defining feature of the School is the coupling of for-credit coursework in environmental studies with environmental leadership training. Guided by national environmental leaders, students build a tool kit of professional skills that prepare them for environmental action and careers.

The program brings scientists, artists, planners and humanists together to design an environmentally sustainable future. The program integrates different fields of knowledge that impact our understanding of the environment, and gives students the skills they need to become more effective leaders.

Students take three rigorous environmental studies courses taught by highly rated faculty. Courses combine knowledge and perspectives from environmental science, policy, arts, and humanities.

The MSoE experience gives students the opportunity to apply knowledge from one course into another, and develop holistic and interdisciplinary perspectives on the environment. Its courses encourage students to think creatively and to think outside of the box. Added to that, students at the School of the Environment gain leadership training from the co-curricular program to build skills in communication, organization, problem solving and group dynamics.

We continue to evolve and improve the program and curriculum to keep it relevant and appropriate to the times. This summer the MSoE will go off-campus to DC for enhanced curricular activities which include working with the storytelling/journalism team at Planet Forward on "how to be effective in a time of change."

I believe the MSoE qualifies as an innovative program for the STARS innovation credit.

Sincerely,

Steve Trombulak  
Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies  
Director, Middlebury School of the Environment