



Department of
Environmental Studies

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to affirm that the Environmental Studies Department at Gettysburg College is truly worthy of an innovation credit.

As the description in the STARS report indicates, the Environmental Studies Department has a clear focus on student driven sustainability research of the highest quality. Our aim is that this research be presented at national or international conferences and be of publishable quality. While STARS has a category for faculty research, it does not ask for information on student research.

Furthermore, as we are a department rather than a program we are able to build a coherent, rigorous, and stable curriculum. As sustainability is inherently interdisciplinary, we require core courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. We do not depend on faculty from other departments who may or may not be able to teach a particular course in a particular semester. We believe that our model has distinct advantages not covered by STARS, which treats all sustainability-related degree programs as equivalent.

The successful outcomes are clear. Our students win awards such as Goldwater Scholarships, NOAA Hollings Scholarships, go to prestigious grad schools, and work for environmental consulting organizations.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rutherford V. Platt".

Rutherford (Rud) V. Platt
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