

February 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Dickinson College launched a new program in fall 2014, One College One Community, that brings together alumni, parents, faculty and current students to consider a common theme each semester and connect through a series of events on and off campus. The theme chosen for the inaugural program, climate change and melting ice, is indicative of the importance accorded to climate change, and sustainability more broadly, by our community. The program featured James Balog's film *Chasing Ice*, which, because of its use of visual arts, was effective at engaging people in new ways, and connecting with new audiences.

While similar in some respects to a common reading program, or a themed semester, the One College One Community program is innovative for attempting to engage both on and off campus communities in conversation about a problem of sustainability, and for sustaining the conversation throughout a semester through a variety of events. These events include public lectures and class visits on campus, a film screening in the local theater, lectures and events for alumni and parents in other cities, live streaming the lecture and the film, and use of social media for dialogue with off-campus members of the Dickinson community about the theme. These events raised awareness in our community that the effects of climate change are already being observed, and that the effects threaten things we value.

Sincerely,

Neil Weissman
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