



**COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
WITH FAMILY FARMERS**

07 May 2014

Ms. Stephanie Herrera  
Executive Director  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Herrera,

I am writing to show support for the University of California, Santa Barbara's (UCSB) Partnership with Farmers Direct Produce (FDP), now Harvest Santa Barbara, as an innovation credit in the Innovation Credits category for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

I believe UCSB's partnership with Harvest Santa Barbara meets the criteria for an Innovation Credit.

Through Residential Dining services (RDS) innovative partnership with Harvest Santa Barbara, UCSB dining Services has transformed how they purchase produce and has, in the process, created a strong relationship with the local farming community.

In academic year 2005/2006, RDS developed a mission statement emphasizing a long-term goal of expanding local, organic produce to 25-50% of their purchases. However, they faced a challenge of finding a supplier that could meet both Residential Dining Services goals for sustainability and the requirements dictated by the infrastructure, budget, and regulations at the University. Out of this challenge grew a partnership between UCSB and local farmers which helped form FDP. UCSB's partnership with Harvest Santa Barbara continues to grow and has enabled Residential Dining Services to purchase 41% of its produce from 53 local farms within 150 miles of the campus in 2012/2013. The UCSB dining commons is now a hub for locally sourced produce and RDS has become a bridge between community farmers and our campus.

UCSB's partnership with Harvest Santa Barbara is unique and could be used as a framework for other universities.

Sincerely Yours,

Diane Del Signore, Executive Director  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers  
info@caff.org

P.O. Box 363, Davis, CA 95617-0363

Phone: 530.756.8518 ☎ Fax: 530.756.7857 ☎ E-mail: info@caff.org ☎ Web site: www.caff.org