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# THE CARVINGSTUDIO& SCULPTURECENTER

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February 1, 2017

Green Mountain College STARS Innovation Credit:  
“Green Mountain College Provides Arts Membership for all Students”

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Founder and former Director of The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland, I am keenly aware of unique collaborations between local communities and colleges. When I was the Director at the Studio, we offered a college class for GMC and Castleton University, and some students later became interns at the Studio, enhancing their education.

Stone Valley Arts (SVA) offers a rich cultural selection in the visual, performing, and literary arts. As a SVA member and frequent participant, it is very exciting to encounter interested and involved students at programs. Opportunity for public engagement is greatly enriched as students encounter regional artists and writers dedicated to their crafts, and local artists hear student leaders’ diverse points of view. Students gain an understanding of what it means to live a dedicated life in the arts, and artists directly experience many of the latest cultural developments in youth culture.

The liaison between SVA and GMC is an innovative and complementary relationship, benefitting each differently, but overall, is a perfect model of cooperation. The fact that the Student Government Association and the Student Campus Greening Fund voted to provide funds for all students to become members of SVA is a testament to the importance and relevance of the ongoing relationship, especially since students and former and current professors have been involved since the inception of SVA as volunteers, interns, performing poets, storytellers, dance instructors, and artists.

I, myself, lived for many years in Cambridge, MA, in the shadows of both MIT and Harvard at a time when both universities seemed less interested in cooperating with local communities and more interested in displacing residents and acquiring property. But to be part of GMC’s support of SVA affirms my belief that such an innovative partnership can break down the superficial differences between people and encourage true dialogue and deeper acceptance of each other. Both institutions are now woven into the fabric of Poultney and local community life, and we are all the richer for it.

Please contact me if I can provide additional testament to this application.

Sincerely,

*B. Amore*

Artist, Author, Founder, former Director of *The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center*

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