

To whom it may concern,

As an industry professional at HKS Architects, I served as a mentor for the Middle of Broad (MoB) student group that partnered with the VCU Office of Sustainability this spring, 2015. Through the process of design for the Monroe Park campus Learning Garden, the students aimed to meet the education and high output needs of the partners on the project. Several creative methods were explored and designed to grow vertically, maximize the space for high output, and create a beautiful design for fostering learning and community.

Overall the partnership was educational for the students in the MoB student group enabling them to grasp an understanding of the professional design process for a project and was hugely helpful in surveying the site for the future garden and designing creative ways to meet the mission of the project. This partnership was a great first-time collaboration between MoB and the Office of Sustainability which hopefully will lead to more collaboration in the future.

It was a great pleasure to be part of the initiative and help facilitate a collaborative and open design dialogue that supported both Organizations beliefs. I personally look forward to the opportunity to work with either organization any way I can to help bring a high level of design and awareness to our beautiful RVA community.

Sincerely,



Nick Cooper

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