

OBERLIN

COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

Office of Environmental Sustainability

February 15, 2012

Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Program Staff,

This letter is to affirm that Oberlin College's Creativity & Leadership Project meets the STARS criteria for Innovation credits. STARS reserves innovation credits for "new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit."

The Creativity & Leadership Project is a multi-disciplinary effort designed to encourage students to put their innovative ideas into practice. The project reflects Oberlin's musical and artistic excellence, academic rigor, and longstanding commitment to preparing students for leadership and civic engagement.

Oberlin's approach to entrepreneurship derives from the synergy between the liberal arts and pre-professional training. It challenges students to imagine their lives beyond Oberlin, to prepare for and "practice" those lives while they are students, and to draw upon and interweave their intellectual and artistic interests, ideas, and aspirations with experiential learning and co-curricular activities as they seek to tackle the questions, challenges, and opportunities of the 21st century. The project emphasizes creativity, leadership, and innovation as attributes at the core of successful ventures in any field.

Open to all Oberlin students, the Creativity & Leadership Project offers various levels of financial support for project development and, through mentored experiential opportunities, courses, workshops, and guest lectures, helps to prepare students for the challenges of implementing their own ideas.

Many students have used these resources to investigate and launch sustainability-related endeavors. From developing online course assistance for public school students in India and Pakistan to researching fog harvesting in water-scarce California and from starting a community kitchen in southern West Virginia's Cole River Valley to writing storybooks to teach environmental stewardship to children, sustainability ventures have been a significant part of the Creativity and Leadership Project.

Oberlin College's Creativity & Leadership Program is one of the many ways that the institution is an innovative leader in sustainability.

Sincerely,



Colin Koffel
Environmental Sustainability Fellow, Oberlin College