



**WESTMINSTER**  
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June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

To: AASHE – STARS

RE: Innovation Letter of Support – STARS as a Tool for Peer-to-Peer Student Learning

Westminster College has taken a unique approach to completing the STARS program. Instead taking the usual method to STARS through professional or administrative initiatives, Westminster has utilized students as the primary source for collecting STARS data. This technique of incorporating students has allowed for increased awareness of sustainability issues on campus and proven to be a highly effective way of completing the process.

Fellows employed by the Environmental Center proposed STARS to the Senior Administrative Team as a program that Westminster should undertake. The SAT voted to fund the project seeing it as an opportunity to increase student involvement in sustainable planning on campus. The students worked through the criteria as well as developed recommendations. An Environmental class also helped gather different information under the direction of the Fellows.

As a result of this student initiative and the class's involvement, student engagement and awareness of sustainability has been a major outcome of the STARS process at Westminster. Our way of using students as key roles in STARS has been a quick effective way to complete the STARS program on our campus. We have compiled all of our data within three months and have now been working towards recommendations for improvement. STARS has been a learning tool for students and allowed them to have a voice in future developments on campus.

We feel that the process of letting students steer the STARS program has had such a positive impact on our campus, that other institutions may find our model useful. This initiative we found to be quite innovative based on how other schools appear to be conducting the STARS assessment.

Sincerely,

Westminster Campus Sustainability Fellows:

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Morgan Anderson  
Leslie Kobinsky  
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