

May 13, 2015

Subject: Letter of Affirmation for the Innovation STARS Credit IN-1

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to explain how and why the Serve•Learn•Sustain Quality Enhancement Plan at Georgia Tech meets the requirements for the STARS Innovation credit. As the Faculty Director of the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business and a Professor of Operations Management at the Institute, I am qualified to examine this program based on the guidelines for this credit. The program has been evaluated based on the major criteria for the credit.

The first criterion is: “Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, groundbreaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit.” The main focus of Georgia Tech’s Serve•Learn•Sustain program is environmental, social, and cultural education and impact awareness. The program has a big focus on service learning and community engagement where students obtain content from lectures and readings and then apply it to real-world experiences in their communities. By implementing this program in the classroom and in the community, the result is students who are aware of their impacts in the community after they graduate and work in the professional world. This program is the first of its type in a large technology-focused research university designed to help students obtain knowledge and experience that will help them to be assets and leaders in ‘creating sustainable communities’.

The second criterion is that the program is “not covered by an existing STARS credit.” The Serve•Learn•Sustain program as a whole has not been used for another STARS credit. It is mentioned in some descriptions for other credits, but the program itself is only used for this Innovation credit.

The third criterion is the innovation credit is: “the innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome must have occurred within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.” The Serve•Learn•Sustain program constitutes the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Georgia Tech. The launching of the program occurred in March of 2015 and will continue to develop and be implemented on and off campus for years to come.

Overall, the Serve•Learn•Sustain program makes students more successful and valuable when they graduate and work in the professional world, and stronger contributors in creating sustainable communities and a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Beril Toktay'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'L' and 'B'.

L. Beril Toktay
Professor of Operations Management and Brady Family Chair
Faculty Director, Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business
Executive Co-Director, Serve-Learn-Sustain Quality Enhancement Plan