



COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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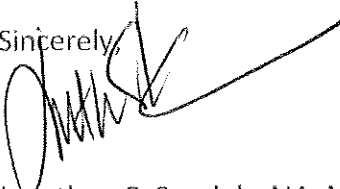
Dear Sir or Madam,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of affirmation of our ecoREHAB design/build initiative. The unique program is a collaboration with the City of Muncie's Community Development department to address the issues of abandoned houses near the city center. The outreach program's aim is to provide leadership in the ecologically sound, green and sustainable rehabilitation of existing and abandoned housing. This initiative benefits not only Ball State students, but the communities of Muncie in taking steps to achieving the *National Goals Towards Sustainable Development* in the areas of environmental protection, economic prosperity and social equity.

Since 2009, student lead teams have rehabilitated 2 houses and are currently undertaking their 3rd house in low income neighborhoods. These houses are rehabbed following green and sustainable building practices looking at their long term affordability. Upon completion, houses are sold to qualified homeowners as identified by the city's down payment assistance program. Students are engaged in the entire process including pre-planning, design, budgeting, administration and construction. While the program includes a strong emphasis of reducing energy consumption and designing energy efficient residences, there is a 9-point metric towards sustainable construction that includes reduction of construction waste, use of low/no VOC materials, integrating site design, and reduction of water usage.

We have found this program to be a very effective learning tool for both the students and the community. Students engage in a program that teaches a community and personal approach to design through individual buildings. The City and other community housing development organizations are learning from our green building rehab approach and are using this approach in their new development projects.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jonathan C. Spodek, AIA, NCARB
Associate Professor of Architecture