



November 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Elon University has created a truly innovative program to meet an identified community need while further educating our students through community service. In order to provide access to local community service agencies for our students, Elon University expanded the BioBus program in 2009 to include a new route to Downtown/East Burlington from campus. This new route was innovative in that it was not designed solely around the transportation needs of Elon students but with the community service agencies and community members in mind. It is currently the only option for free, public transportation in Alamance County.

Over the past two years, the route has become increasingly popular with both students and community members. Last year, there were 2,546 riders. About 60% of the riders were affiliated with Elon University and the other 40% were community members. With the addition of new route stops in 2011, the Downtown/East Burlington Bio Bus route will continue to provide the students and surrounding area with free and accessible public transportation.

With over 89% of Elon University students participating in service, providing over 100,000 hours of service in just the 2010-2011 school year alone, providing access to community service locations is an important need. Rather than relying on individual shuttles to locations at specific times, the BioBus route allows service to be a natural and sustainable part of the student experience at Elon University.

This program has been a significant benefit to students on campus, community riders, and the local community service agencies. Each day the route runs, it contributes to the education of the students at Elon University. This program has helped to re-imagine service at Elon and should be considered for the Innovation Credit through the STARS program.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Leigh Frier".

Mary Leigh Frier  
Associate Director  
Kernodle Center for Service Learning & Community Engagement  
Moseley Center 230B  
2999 Campus Box  
Elon, NC 27244  
336-278-7222  
[mfrier@elon.edu](mailto:mfrier@elon.edu)