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To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to submit a letter of support confirming that RIT's Green Vehicle Challenge merits recognition as an innovative practice, worthy of a STARS innovation credit.

In 2009, I challenged the RIT community to design and build a green vehicle that consumed less energy than the electric bicycle that I built. The winning team has a choice between either \$1,000 cash or one of my prized antique banjos.

In its first year, 10 teams participated, all of which used renewable energy sources—wind or solar—to charge their energy storage systems. Vehicle designs included mountain and recumbent bikes, an ice-racing sailboat, and a custom wind turbine. Four of the designs finished the race using less energy than my bike. 13 teams participated in the 2012 challenge in which entrants were asked to design and construct a self-contained electric vehicle for the purpose of a straight-line performance test (drag race) a distance of 100 meters.

The challenge, part of the university's Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival, has offered the community an opportunity to explore new ways of consuming less energy in transportation. It is an entertaining way to raise awareness at RIT and in the community about the need to work towards a more sustainable future.

Sincerely,



William W. Destler, Ph.D.
President