

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Facilities & Services

Sustainability and Transportation
Physical Plant Service Building
1501 South Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820



April 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

The Campus Bicycle Shop opened in May 2010 through a unique partnership between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a local area nonprofit, The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign. Through this partnership, we have developed an innovative, membership-based model to educate our students, employees, and the surrounding community about bicycle maintenance and repair, thus empowering these groups to make bicycles their primary mode of transportation. The shop offers a safe, fun, and inclusive learning environment where passionate bicycle enthusiasts and first time riders alike can come together to teach, learn, and spread awareness about bicycles as a sustainable, healthy, and active form of transportation.

This is not your typical 'drop it off for repair' bicycle shop seen on many college campuses. Instead, with an annual membership to the Campus Bicycle Shop, you can visit anytime the shop is open and have access to the tools, parts, and supplies provided, along with guidance, training, and expertise from paid staff and a devoted base of experienced volunteers. Members and visitors are taught how to build, repair, and maintain their own bicycles, and can also buy refurbished used bicycles at the shop. Additionally, thanks to our ongoing partnership with The Bike Project, annual memberships at the Campus Bicycle Shop are also valid at The Bike Project's main location in downtown Urbana, and vice-versa. The Campus Bicycle Shop provides a valuable connection between the campus and the greater community, through a common love for bicycles.

The shop welcomes hundreds of new people through its doors each semester, and has flourished into a critical cornerstone of the bicycling community on our campus. The shop also fosters a supportive culture for bikes and sustainability through a number of outreach efforts organized across campus throughout the year, including courses, weekly rides, bike rodeos, and presentations. Ours is the only bicycle co-op I know of on a university campus that partners with a local community organization to offer hands-on bicycle education. The Campus Bicycle Shop is truly innovative for the ways in which it engages students and the community, encourages sustainable lifestyle choices, and empowers cyclists.

Sincerely,

Amelia J. Neptune

Amelia J. Neptune
Bicycle Coordinator
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign