



CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

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June 1, 2016

Re: Letter of Affirmation - Innovation Credit #1

It is my pleasure to affirm that the Champlain Apiary at Champlain College meets the standards of an Innovation Credit under the AASHE STARS guidelines.

In the spring of 2013, Champlain College established the apiary, which I oversee. This apiary provides ecological benefits to the campus and community, experiential learning opportunities for students and community members, and supports the college's commitment to sustainability.

The apiary is located on the central campus and houses the bee species *Apis mellifera*, the western honey bee. At a time when feral and managed bee populations are declining, these bees provide valuable pollination services to Champlain College's campus and the surrounding community.

Additionally, the apiary functions as a living laboratory. It is open for organized tours for classes and individuals from May through September, and professors are encouraged to incorporate the apiary into their curricula where applicable. Through the apiary, students and community members learn about the biology of bees, the complexity of life within a hive, bees' role in our ecosystem, and the history and use of bee products including honey, wax, and propolis.

The apiary also has created a unique opportunity for business and marketing students to manage and run a sustainable and local business venture. Students bottle the raw honey produced at the apiary and also design the labels used on the bottles. The students then market the honey to the campus community. All of proceeds from the sales benefit the educational mission and material support of the apiary.

The apiary is a valuable ecological and educational asset to Champlain College and the community, and we are pleased to present it as our Innovation Credit # 1.

Sincerely,

Kristin Wolf, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Core Division