

May 31, 2016

Re: Letter of Affirmation - Innovation Credit # 4

The David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry (Cooperrider Center) opened in November 2014 in the Robert P. Stiller School of Business at Champlain College and is the first academic-based center focused on the advancement of the theory and practice of Appreciative Inquiry. The Cooperrider Center offers unique opportunities for students to learn about and develop their professional skills regarding Appreciative Inquiry, and as such, qualifies for an Innovation Credit under the AASHE STARS guidelines.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a strengths-based management theory, which recognizes and capitalizes on an individual's, organization's, or community's strengths. By focusing on strengths and not weaknesses, AI helps businesses and organizations become sources of positive change in the world, starting with their employees and extending to their customers, vendors, and community.

The Cooperrider Center invites students to learn from faculty and professional staff while working with real-world clients who are seeking business or organizational solutions. The Center offers a variety of opportunities for both undergraduate students as well as graduate/professional students. Undergraduate students have worked as interns with the Center, as well as participated in client projects. At the graduate level, the Center offers a Foundations of Appreciative Inquiry course, as well as a Practitioner Certification in Appreciative Inquiry, and an Online Graduate Certificate in Positive Organizational Development.

The Cooperrider Center's mission is to:

- Provide cutting-edge educational offerings in AI and Positive Organizational Development;
- Provide AI-related organizational consultancy services to organizations;
- Serve as a knowledge incubator that advances the theory and practice of AI across all organizational sectors around the world; and
- Become the global hub for cutting-edge work in AI across all organizational sectors.

The Cooperrider Center trains leaders to be the best at discovering and designing positive organizations and communities and we are very proud to present it as Innovation Credit # 4.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Godwin, Ph.D.
Director, David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry