



March 28, 2019

Re: Letter of Affirmation – Innovation Credit # IN-24C

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to introduce the Center for Service & Sustainability at Champlain College for innovation credit #IN-24C.

In the fall of 2016, Champlain College established the Center for Service & Sustainability (Center) of which I am the Director. The Center is unique in that it combines Sustain Champlain, Champlain College's campus sustainability initiative that dates back to 2008, with service and service-learning. This combination creates a powerful synergy in which campus sustainability initiatives are merged with student learning, education, and service. This nexus came from the realization that our students were not deeply engaging in sustainability or service efforts outside of their academic and professional experiences, so we decided to embed them within their courses.

The mission of the Center is to connect Champlain College students with the broader community in beneficial ways that provide educational opportunities to reflect, learn, and work toward a flourishing world for all. Additionally, the Center for Service and Sustainability manages our student Eco-Rep Program, our Green Revolving Fund, and is home for most campus sustainability tracking, analysis, and reporting.

The Center combines community service with academic instruction by immersing students in critical, reflective thinking, and integrating their major course of studies, our required general education classes (known as "Core") and extra-curricular learning. These service opportunities can range from classes with a service-learning component (either at Champlain College or abroad), internships with community partners, campus and community events, domestic or international service trips, community service-related student organizations, and volunteer opportunities (either short-term or long-term) with the surrounding community.

Currently through the Center, students, faculty, and staff are able to connect with a mixture of environmental and social justice community organizations such as the Chittenden Food Shelf; COTS; Intervale Center; ReSource; Everybody Wins! Vermont; the King Street Center and many others. Each year, we ask students and employees to submit their service experiences, which we report out via our [Annual Report](#).

Year	Faculty & Staff Service Hours	Student Service Hours*
2016-2017	673	6,416.75
2017-2018	281**	4,984.5

*These hours do not include relevant internship hours.

**In May 2018, our all employee engagement day was put on hold; it is being reinstated in May 2019.

In the fall of 2017, we started designating courses as Service-Learning. To date, we have successfully approved 28 courses, across the five academic divisions at Champlain College. In the 2018-2019 school year, we had 582 students taking a service-learning course - approximately ¼ of our on-campus students. The Center provides resources and support to Champlain faculty who wish to pursue service-learning opportunities in their classes, namely through our annual Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, and in the spring of 2018, we named our first Service-Learning Faculty Award winner. [Potential service-learning projects](#) are categorized by the closest-fitting Sustainable Development (SDG) goal, and in our June 2019 annual report we will associate all activities with the relevant SDG.

The Center is a valuable asset that strengthens the economic, social, and environmental Champlain College community and surrounding areas while simultaneously providing service-learning and community service opportunities.

Sincerely,



Christina Erickson, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Service & Sustainability