



Undergraduate Studies

February 24, 2015

Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Subject: Letter of Affirmation – WPI STARS Innovation Credit

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to demonstrate that the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) program at WPI meets the requirements of the Innovation Credit for the STARS Survey. As Dean of Undergraduate Studies I am in a position to evaluate the significance of each aspect of our undergraduate educational program. This response is organized by the criteria for this credit.

This innovation credit describes a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policies or practice. WPI's Interactive Projects program is truly unique in higher education. The IQP is a major (3 course equivalents) part of students' programs that challenges students to address a problem that lies at the intersection of science or technology with society. Inevitably, these problems include issues of sustainability. During the IQP, students work in interdisciplinary teams, often with an external sponsoring organization, to develop solutions to real world problems. In doing so, students learn something about the role of science and technology, its impact on society, its place in meeting human needs and human efforts to regulate, control, promote and manage our changing technologies.

The innovation credit is not already covered by an existing STARS credit. This program has never been included in any other STARS credit.

The innovative practice, program, or outcome has occurred within the past three years. The IQP program is an ongoing, integral part of the WPI educational experience, and continues to expand in numbers and breadth. In particular, the Global Perspectives Program annually places over 400 students in IQP experiences at international project sites, many of which focus on appropriate technology and quality of life issues for disadvantaged populations in developing nations.

The institution has not previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome. This program has not been previously reported for an Innovation credit, or any other STARS credit.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Heinricher
Dean of Undergraduate Studies