



AASHE STARS Survey 2.0, 2016

February 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to demonstrate that the Center for Project-Based Learning at WPI meets the requirements of the Innovation Credit for the STARS Survey.

This innovation credit describes a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policies or practice. The new Center builds upon the university's 45 years of leadership in this impactful form of education. The first Summer Institute on Project-based Learning, which the university launched in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities, brought almost 100 faculty from around the world to WPI in 2015. One of our goals is to help other colleges and universities introduce project-based learning on their own campuses.

The Center for Project-based Learning will continue to offer the Institutes on Project-based Learning, but it will also develop customized workshops and seminars to meet the specific needs of colleges and universities. The Center will develop its own materials, but will also collect, organize, and disseminate materials developed by partner institutions.

Our experience and research has shown that project-based learning engages and empowers students in a way that traditional courses cannot. The Center for Project-based Learning will share research on the impact of project-based learning, not just the practice of project-based learning. The goal is to enable more students to have access to an educational approach that can truly change lives—for the betterment of all.

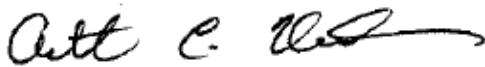
WPI's leadership position was highlighted recently when the National Academy of Engineering announced that the university—and four individual faculty members—will be awarded the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education. WPI is investing \$250,000 of that prize purse to help launch the Center for Project-based Learning.

This innovation credit is not already covered by an existing STARS credit. The Center for Project Based Learning is not substantially covered by any other STARS credit.

The Innovative practice or program has occurred within the past three years. This program was launched in 2015 and has grown in magnitude and scope over the past year.

The institution has not previously received a STSS Innovation credit for this practice or program. The Center for Project-Based Learning has not been substantially mentioned in any STARS credit previously.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur C. Heinricher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Arthur C. Heinricher
Dean of Undergraduate Studies