



Student Sustainability Office

8/28/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to affirm Utah State University's STARS innovation credit based on my work with the Utah Conservation Corps, Aggie Blue Bikes, and Blue Goes Green student fee. I have overseen all three of these campus entities and have leveraged support from AmeriCorps grants with various other sources of federal, state, local, private, and student fee funding.

I cofounded the Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) in 2001 at Utah State University. At that time it was one of the only conservation corps in the country based out of an institution of higher education. The UCC leverages AmeriCorps funding with fee-for-service funding with public land managers to complete vital natural resource conservation projects and develop the conservation leaders of tomorrow. Since its founding, the UCC has followed in the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps while expanding the diversity of the corps member experience to persons with disabilities, minority youth, and veterans.

As the UCC grew in size and programmatic scope, the program was able to be an incubator and home for the student-driven initiatives of Aggie Blue Bikes and Blue Goes Green student fee. The UCC has used its AmeriCorps funding to place student leaders in AmeriCorps positions to ensure the success of these initiatives. Since its founding in 2005, Aggie Blue Bikes has grown its fleet from 20 to over 200+ free rental bikes that serve thousands of Utah State University students annually, and it provides and maintains departmental bikes for employees to ride on university business. Aggie Blue Bikes is widely regarded as one of the premier bicycle-lending campus programs in the nation. The Blue Goes Green student fee was passed in 2011 and the UCC has placed Utah State University students in AmeriCorps positions to education and encourage the student body to have more sustainable lifestyles.

Sincerely,

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