



Dear AASHE Program Staff:

I am writing in regards to the the College of the Atlantic's Thoreau Environmental Leaders Initiative. I am familiar with this Initiative, as I led a day-long workshop for COA students on Saturday, Feb 3, 2018. My workshop, titled "Engaging Media: Exercises in Practical Applications of Communications Techniques", was part of the Thoreau Initiative. I currently work as a Deputy Press Secretary for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Campaign.

There are several components of COA's Thoreau Initiative that I think are particularly noteworthy. First, their program involves practical training in skills necessary for environmental advocacy. Second, this project gives students practical experiences working in different environmental areas, including internationally at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and locally and regionally on sustainable energy and food systems projects. This enables students to gain experience on multiple issues (food, climate, agriculture) at multiple scales (local and international). Finally, the project connects students with environmental professionals such as myself, and also helps to fund student internships in environmental areas. This helps students grow their professional networks and learn skills from active environmental practitioners.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the College of the Atlantic's Thoreau Environmental Leaders Initiative meets the guidelines put forth by the AASHE STARTS reporting system for innovation credits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ricky Junquera", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ricky Junquera  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Beyond Coal to Clean Energy  
Sierra Club