

May 29, 2013

To AASHE Reviewer,

I strongly endorse the University of Iowa's Sustainable Citizen Program as worthy of Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

Since 2012 this Program, under the leadership of Professor Craig Just, has sought to unite students and community members in efforts to enhance movement toward a more sustainability society. The Program directly responds to UI's 2020 Vision for Sustainability that calls for a need "to be innovative in regards to sustainability."

The Program's most obvious innovation is extending a student's learning experience well beyond the classroom by direct and meaningful interaction with the local community. Since sustainability is all about community, students need to acquire not only increased awareness and new skills and knowledge, but most importantly the capacity for participating as active citizens. An army of engaged citizens, passionate about sustainability, is the most important contribution higher education can provide society for ensuring informed, effective decision-making in public discourse and policy debate, and in hands-on problem solving in matters relating to sustainability.

Studies in citizenship and public policy at most universities are taught independently of studies in sustainability. As a professor involved in sustainability curriculum, I know the challenges posed for integrating these two scholarly areas. This lapse is true despite the ultimate aim of sustainability education, which is not only to teach content, but also to motivate students for the lifetime practice of living sustainably and engaging in civic actions focused on sustainability. The Sustainable Citizen Program succeeds in providing the full spectrum from content to action that is rare in higher education.

For these reasons, I feel the Sustainable Citizen Program is deserving of the highest credit in your STARS Assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Stigliani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Bill Stigliani
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