ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
23 Romoda Drive, Canton, New York 13617

August 22nd, 2013

Wendy Scott, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Wendy Scott,

I am writing to verify the innovative nature of our reforestation work at our department's Ecological Sustainability Landscape (ESL). The ESL is a 110-acre farm purchased ten years ago that we have been restoring and using as a living-learning laboratory for our upper division courses. The Forest Corridor Project, Forest Carbon Project, and Locatroph Project I initiated serve each of my upper division courses.

The Forest Corridor Project is restoring forest along a roughly 25-acre gap in the broader forest landscape of the area. With a functioning corridor at the ESL, we estimate that we would quadruple the available habitat for forest-dependent organisms. Using only native tree species this work comprises the lab portion of my Once and Future Forests course. The Locatroph Project is part of my Global Change and Sustainability course. The project is establishing a wood lot on a 4-acre plot at the ESL and is part of our efforts to draw our energy from local sources, in this case wood. With this project we plant and tend to native and emerging tree species that will become common as climate zones move north. The Forest Carbon Project is associated with my Climate Change Policy and Advocacy class. We have been measuring the amount of carbon uptake the two projects above have sequestered.

My training in the field of conservation biology and my current research on climate change prepares me to mentor this work. To my knowledge, this work is both unique and uncommon and qualifies as an innovative project as defined by STARS. We are unique as a University both to own a large tract of land and to manage those acres with environmental sustainability in mind. Our reforestation work is important both for habitat connectivity, a source of renewable energy, and carbon sequestration. I believe these projects should be recognized for STARS innovation credit.

Sincerely,

Jon Rosales, PhD
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies
St. Lawrence University

Environmental Studies
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