



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

December 17, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to recognize Loyola University Chicago's sustainability leadership around a facet of their built environment; their green roofs. While many campuses have green roofs, Loyola has over 55,000 square feet across 8 facilities between their two Chicago campuses. These roofs provide insulation to their buildings, help mitigate the urban heat island effect, absorb stormwater, improve air quality and provide important plant and animal habitat in the urban landscape.

Loyola has shown their sustainability leadership, not only in their construction and investment in green infrastructure but also making these spaces available for research and teaching. Through collaborations with the Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University, I have conducted research for my PhD dissertation on several of their green roofs. Because there are so many roofs that vary in their construction on Loyola's campuses, I have been able to answer several questions about urban ecology, ecosystem services and biodiversity. A new cutting-edge research project will be implemented on Loyola University's north campus in Spring 2014 to investigate how green roof plant community structure influences both above- and below-ground species diversity and ecosystem services. This investigation is the first of its kind globally and will bring together students and researchers from Loyola and two other universities in the region. Facilitating a project of this nature is a testament to Loyola's commitment to green infrastructure, education, and research excellence.

In addition to academic research, Loyola has promoted learning opportunities for the green infrastructure industry through Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, the largest green infrastructure organization in North America. Loyola has hosted classes on the proper installation and maintenance of green roofs and provided tours to guests from international conferences looking at green infrastructure such as green roofs. These roofs are integrated into Loyola's larger stormwater management and sustainable landscaping strategies and are a model for other universities looking to add ecological function to their facilities.

Sincerely,

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