



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

To: AASHE - STARS

From: Anna Olsson, Manager of Training and Assessment, Center for Teaching, Research and Learning, American University

Re: Green Teaching Certification Program

Date: January 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

In the summer of 2008 the Center for Teaching, Research and Learning at American University piloted a Green Teaching Certificate, and the program is now in its third year. This program is part of an attempt to reward faculty who are green teachers, while giving green courses a familiar face among students.

Since its inception the Green Teaching program has been improved through the input of participating faculty, and has grown both internally, with 130 faculty qualifying for a certificate in the 2009-10 academic year (and just as many in the fall 2010 semester alone), and externally, with three universities launching similar programs based on the AU model (Howard University, Marymount University, and Prince George's Community College) in the 2010-11 academic year.

The program is innovative in that (1) it is – to our knowledge – the first of its kind in the United States; (2) it is designed to change over time with the innovative ideas brought into the program by participating faculty; and (3) it is helping other universities create similar programs.

By developing this program, American University has shown that green initiatives can start at the grass-roots level of education, in the classroom, while providing a tool and inspiration for faculty and students interested in contributing to a more sustainable university.

Other aspects of and information about the program can be found online at:

<http://www.american.edu/provost/ctrl/green.cfm>.

Best,

Anna Olsson

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