



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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

January 28, 2011

Re: Campus Beautification Day

To Whom It May Concern:

Every April, the AU Grounds department organizes Campus Beautification Day. Each year this event gathers more than 300 volunteers, bringing faculty and staff out of their cubicles and students out of their residence halls for a community-wide effort to enhance the university's Arboretum and Public Gardens—the only university arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Volunteers spend the day planting native and adaptive trees and shrubs, mulching, weeding, and building rain gardens and other stormwater-management landscape features. The event has also drawn participation from neighboring Horace Mann elementary school, alumni and neighborhood residents.

Campus Beautification Day not only brings together the campus community to green the campus, but it serves to educate and inspire the broader university community to design and manage landscapes to be both beautiful and sustainable. As such, I believe this is an innovative campus sustainability practice.

Sincerely,

Mark Feist
Assistant Director, Grounds