

June 10, 2014

AASHE STARS Innovation Credit
Letter of Support for Johnson County Community College

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this memo as a letter of support for Johnson County Community College's (JCCC) application for a STARS Innovation credit for their Sustainability Initiatives Fund.

The SIF was created in 2009, when JCCC's students asked for the creation of a green fee that gathers more than \$350,000 a year for sustainability projects. Outstanding recent examples of the use of these dollars are upgrading the college's recycling system, LED lighting upgrades on campus, tree planting, student intern positions and the final round of solar personal device charging tables built by solar tech students. Additionally, the fund made possible a second trip to Las Pintas, Mexico where JCCC students installed low-tech solar hot water heaters on the roofs of poor families, and an experimental experiential Honors education class held in Big Bend National Park.

I understand green fees in and of themselves are not innovative, speaking as a professional in the community college sustainability sector, I can attest: among my colleagues, the scope of this one at a Johnson County Community College truly is. Its governance is also notable as JCCC students make the funding decisions in conjunction with JCCC's Center for Sustainability. Having seen a number of community colleges funding mechanisms for sustainability both in and outside of Illinois, JCCC's SIF is definitely worthy of a STARS innovation credit.

Thank you for your consideration. It has been my pleasure to submit this symbol of support. Please know I am available if you require further information from me.

*Sustainably yours,
Stephenie*

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