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October 1, 2012

AASHE STARS

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm that the Faculty Commons is truly an innovative faculty development and resource-sharing mechanism for Bellevue College.

While several community colleges in the Seattle area, such as Edmonds Community College and the trio of Seattle Community Colleges have Teaching and Learning Centers, Bellevue College is the only community college to integrate sustainability as one of five pillars to guide our pedagogy. The five pillars are:

- Sustainability
- Inclusiveness
- Lifelong learning
- Interdisciplines
- Technology

The Faculty Commons identifies curriculum and instructional approaches that introduce interconnected, social, economic, environmental issues. It is devoted to redefining institutional parts as interrelated and teaching whole systems approaches and thinking. As part of this goal, it seeks to develop respect for long term, multi-generational consequences on our grandchildren's grandchildren and foster empathy and encourage action.

Sustainability is integrated into the workshop teachings at the Faculty Commons Teaching Institute. This institute is offered every quarter to all faculty members who receive a stipend after completion of participation. It includes seminar and online components to encourage the development of a community of ideas and working relationships.

A list of workshop topics:

- Learning and Assessment
- Facilitate the Education of the Whole Student
- A Sustainable Future
- Best Practices Online
- Diversity in the Classroom

The Faculty Commons, in conjunction with the Office of Sustainability, hosts the BC Reads Book Club. *Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben is the 2012-13 selection. Concepts discussed at book club meetings are incorporated into curriculum and faculty receive a stipend for participation.

Sincerely,

*Angela Hildre*

Angela Hildre

Sustainability Curriculum Manager

Bellevue College

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*Become Exceptional*

