



November 17, 2016

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to submit this letter of affirmation to share the opening of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's new Innovation & Sustainability Hub, which occurred on April 5, 2016. The HUB is located in our campus's Student Center and is a collaborative project among our Sustainability Office, the SIU Research Park, the University Innovation Fellows program, and the SIU Center for Innovation, a program of the College of Business. The HUB showcases campus sustainability initiatives and innovation activities and serves as a collaborative space to share information and engage the campus community in innovation and sustainability.

Students were engaged from the start, collaborating in the remodel of the space; determining space aesthetic, from design and signage to paint colors. The HUB features white board walls that are informational and interactive, allowing students, staff, and faculty to engage in idea-sharing.

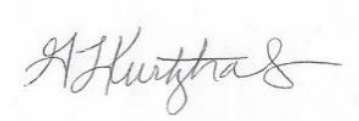
Since opening, we have been offering pop-up classes in the space which have included the following topics: 3D Printing, Get to Know your Green Fee, Design Thinking, Environmental Justice, Composting Basics, and more. We also hosted a t-shirt craft night as part of the larger Dawgs Nite Out event, hosted by SIU's Office of Student Engagement. At this event, we introduced more than 75 students to the space and engaged them in a materials re-use activity. The space also serves as the starting point for First Friday Campus Green Tours, which are offered monthly.

Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to showcase their innovation or sustainability related projects in the HUB. Displays have included: the SIU Automotive Technology department's utility task vehicle gas to electric conversion project, a hydroponic tower managed by the Horticulture Club, 3D printers, models from the Architecture department's Green Fee funded projects, and more. The HUB also includes a monitor, which plays innovation and sustainability videos while the space is open.

The HUB serves as an office space for the student members of the Sustainability Office team. Because the office is located in such a high traffic area (next to an entrance of the Student Center), the students serve as the faces of sustainability on campus and engage students, faculty, staff, and community members who stop by the HUB.

The search for new ways to promote sustainability and innovation at Southern Illinois University is continuous, the opening of the HUB is just one example of the campus's commitment towards innovation and sustainability initiatives. Snapshots of the space are included below for reference.

Sincerely,



Geory Kurtzhals
Sustainability Coordinator



Lynn Andersen Lindberg
Managing Director, Center for Innovation



A Sustainability graduate assistant explains the role of the Sustainability Office to a fellow student.



SIU Carbondale Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell speaks about the triple bottom line at the grand opening of the Innovation and Sustainability Hub.



A faculty member views one of the white board walls.



SIU Carbondale Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell poses with team members from the Sustainability Office, the Center for Innovation, and the University Innovation Fellows program.