

To Whom it May Concern:

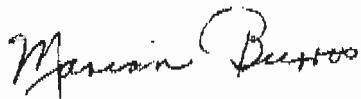
In 2016, Sterling College was named a Gold Barn honoree by the Vermont Fresh Network, a consortium of Vermont chefs, farmers, food artisans, and diners. To become a Gold Barn honoree, an institution has to source ingredients from 15 or more Vermont Fresh Network farmers, as well as purchase 35% of our annual food expenditures from Vermont farmers and food producers.

Gold Barn honorees are the top 25% of Vermont Fresh Network's membership in terms of the number of Vermont farmers they partner with, the diversity of Vermont ingredients that they use, and the volume of Vermont products they purchase. Sterling College is not only a Gold Barn honoree, but the only Gold Barn honoree for Orleans County in Vermont.

Sterling College has the most progressive food service of any college in the country. They grow over 20% of their own food, and source as much local food as possible. There is no food-service company on campus; rather, their chefs work alongside students to cook healthful, creative, and delicious meals. The kitchen staff works hard to uphold the college's mission of environmental stewardship education and to create a food system that is just, equitable, and doesn't exacerbate climate change.

As a member of the Sterling College Board of Trustees and as a former reporter for the *New York Times*, whose beat was food, food safety, and nutrition, I am pleased with this honor and support it for an Innovation Point for STARS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian Burros". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Marian Burros