



18 December 2015

Dear STARS Readers,

I am writing in support of Roosevelt University's Sustainability Student Symposium satisfying the Innovation Credit criteria for STARS 2.0, particularly as the Symposium furthers goals of Curriculum and Public Engagement. As a professor of rhetoric and the director of undergraduate writing, I have been pleased to see the student-presenters at Symposium events speaking clearly and passionately about their work, fielding probing questions from community members, and writing about their experiences on the highly regarded Sustainability Studies blog and other public outlets. Two students were particularly adept at communicating the social relevance of their projects.

Shannon Conway, a senior Sustainability Studies major, gave a presentation describing her field research on glaciers in Iceland. With maps and original photographs and charts, Shannon showed the dramatic retreat of Iceland's glaciers over the last several decades, outlining both the physical processes involved and what these observations mean for climate change and its global impact.

Senior Laura Miller Hill presented details from a summer internship at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History. At the Field Museum, Laura gathered information through primary research, including interviews and direct observation, which she used to update the Museum's website and to write her own reflections on sustainability at the Roosevelt University Sustainability Studies Blog. As Roosevelt's writing director, I was particularly impressed with Laura's ability to take a large collection of information and convert it into prose for different audiences and purposes, both highly public.

These student presentations provide evidence for a curriculum that benefits not just the students immersed in it, but the broader public as well. Both Shannon and Laura performed hands-on sustainability work and communicated that work and its significance to large audiences. They took their education and turned it into further education for others. I believe this demonstrates extraordinary leadership worthy of STARS recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cryer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel A. Cryer, PhD
Assistant Professor of English
Director of Undergraduate Writing
Roosevelt University