



March 14, 2013

TO Whom It may Concern

As someone with knowledge of the creation and impact of the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, I offer my endorsement and letter of affirmation for STARS Innovation Credit #2: **"Establishment of the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability and A New Graduate Executive Education Program with a Focus on Leadership for Sustainability"**

I believe this new center in our College of Natural Resources and Environment meets all of the STARS Innovation Criteria, and especially reflects criterion #1: Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit.

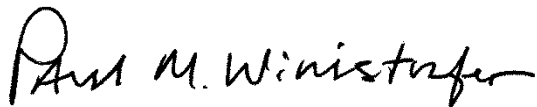
The Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability (CLiGS) is a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking effort to bring diverse interests to the 'sustainability table' to focus on solutions. CLiGS is a knowledge enterprise that occupies a unique space among existing, traditional programs that are unable to bridge the silos and bring solutions to complex sustainability problems. CLiGS is physically located in Washington DC in close proximity to federal agencies, NGOs, consulting firms, and private sector businesses operating as government contractors. The location of CLiGS allows a diverse clientele to access the programs and expertise of CLiGS staff.

Under the CLiGS umbrella is a new graduate education program focused on Leadership for Sustainability. This is an executive program that meets one weekend per month for 18 months. A two week experience abroad is required of all participants, where students are working on a major project in sustainability. While this program was modeled after the executive MBA degree, CLiGS is a new and unique graduate education program that stands alone among other traditional graduate programs that operate at the periphery of sustainability. CLiGS operates at the nexus of sustainability and the enrollment in the first three cohorts is a testament to the quality and value of the program; cohorts have represented a wide diversity of educational and career paths of the participants (see page 2 of our recent college news magazine (<http://cnre.vt.edu/magazine/articles/global-sustainability-center/201302/coca-cola-associate-meshes-job-atlanta-graduate-program-arlington.html>)).

I am confident that the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability represents a new and unique approach to sustainability challenges we face. There is not another existing

program like CLiGS in the academic marketplace. I believe that CLiGS is a ground-breaking effort that will yield unique and substantially new collaborative approaches to sustainability challenges. We are very proud of what we have accomplished with the establishment of CLiGS and hope that you will recognize it as an innovative program worthy of STARS innovation credit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul M. Winistorfer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'P'.

Paul M. Winistorfer
Dean