

## MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2014

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to support the innovation credit that the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) is including in its forthcoming submittal of a STARS 2.0 rating. The Innovation Credit being submitted by UCCS relates to that campus instituting a new sustainability General Education requirement for all students.

This innovation is unique and creative for several reasons:

1. This requirement must be met by all freshman students entering the university in Fall 2014. Many schools have numerous sustainability course offerings but few have sustainability as a requirement for graduation.
2. To my knowledge UCCS is the only university in Colorado with this requirement. It is also significant that is a public state institution.
3. A new academic structure that has been developed to help students meet this goal. Within the newly developed Compass Curriculum students may take a course from any discipline or department that offers courses with an approved sustainability focus. A review committee is in place to approve syllabi and courses. This has also inspired new faculty workshops in sustainability to help faculty incorporate more sustainability concepts in the classroom.

Overall, this innovation is emblematic of UCCS' creativity, leadership, and commitment to innovatively embedding sustainability across the university.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Newport, Director  
CU Environmental Center

