

August 21, 2014

Office of Sustainability (MC 996)
150 Paulina Street Building
1140 South Paulina Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612

STARS Innovation Credit: The Green Labs Program

I am writing to inform you that the Green Labs program at UIC meets the Innovation Credit criteria for STARS 2.0. I began this program out of a need that research laboratories are extremely wasteful: using disposable plastic supplies, running energy intensive machines, and disposing a large quantity of hazardous waste. Although we had programs in place to reduce waste and energy usage, not many laboratories implemented these programs.

I created the UIC Green Labs Committee in 2013 to communicate these programs, but to also allow an intra-departmental communication amongst our dozen or so research-intensive departments. The committee meets regularly to discuss environmental issues in the labs and to share solutions. To date, the committee has created over 5 programs and has contributed to a significant reduction in landfill waste, hazardous waste, and energy usage.

The committee advocates these practices to colleagues and co-workers, but also practices outreach to students. We are still the only university in the Chicagoland area to have such a program, and I regularly promote the formation of a formal committee to our peer institutions and to implement these programs so that we may all reduce waste in the laboratories.

For more information, visit <http://sustainability.uic.edu/get-involved/green-labs-committee>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Sanzenbacher", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Sanzenbacher, M.S.
Program Coordinator & Outreach
University of Illinois at Chicago
Office of Sustainability

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