

December 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support and endorsement of Penn State University's (PSU) Sustainable Communities Collaborative as an innovative program that provides students with high-quality curricular (engaged scholarship) experiences that positively impact the surrounding communities in which they serve.

Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that engaged students have demonstrably higher GPAs, reinforce their success by building resumes throughout their academic tenures and tend to have less time for activities that don't promote success. As such, Penn State is committed to insuring every undergraduate student has at least one engaged scholarship experience during their academic career by the year 2020.

As Director of Health Engagement as well as member of Penn State's Council on Engaged Scholarship (CoES) and Chair of the Council's Pilots Committee, I'm uniquely positioned to work with many PSU faculty and programs across disciplines that are dedicated to providing students with high-caliber out-of-classroom academic experiences that compliment in-classroom learning. The Sustainable Communities Collaborative is one such program that excels in providing such experiences as evidenced by the many accolades from both university and community representatives. As a result, the program is well-poised to expand its impact to additional communities within University Park and across Pennsylvania including those near select branch campuses.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

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