



Office of Sustainability

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February 20, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Sustainability Capstone Abroad course meets the criteria necessary for the Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

In 2012, UNI Sustainability Coordinator Eric O'Brien led a study abroad trip to the United Kingdom focusing on campus sustainability issues. The Summer Campus Sustainability in England and Wales program offered UNI students the unique opportunity to visit University campuses in England and Wales and learn about Sustainability practices there.

The course investigated, firsthand, campuses and organizations in the United Kingdom that demonstrated strengths in areas of sustainability that UNI could improve upon. The overarching goal of the course focused on students gaining a full understanding of the effects an individual and campus has on the environment, as well as, options to improve that impact. Inspired by the achievements of students from the Universities of Birmingham, participants gained a systems thinking approach in their decision making to promote environmental change throughout their lives.

This unique program blending ideas from university campuses in the Midwest and United Kingdom allows a great learning opportunity for all parties. UNI students have begun to implement changes from the trip in a novel way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Christiansen".

Liz Christiansen
Director