



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse the Virginia Commonwealth University Fashion Textile Recycling program for consideration as a STARS Innovation Credit. As Director of Sustainability at nearby University of Richmond, I am impressed with this program's alignment of sustainability practices within the larger culture of the university.

All too often students in the arts and liberal arts are not included in the sustainability conversation. VCU has found a way to engage Fashion students in a fabric recycling program that gets them thinking about product life-cycle and waste diversion in a way that is relevant to their craft and their overall student experience. More than one ton of scrap fabric, which would have been destined for the landfill, has been recycled through this program since it began in 2013.

This program also has direct relevance on the students' careers following their graduation. Thinking holistically not only of the material used in the final product, but also in the treatment of items left over following completion of the garment signals a change in normal practices. It is likely that this program will inspire future fashion designers to incorporate sustainable practices into the design process, thereby reducing their impact on the environment and changing the fashion industry.

Yours truly,

Rob Andrejewski
Director, Office for Sustainability

Office for Sustainability
114 Puryear Hall
28 Westhampton Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173
(804) 287-1268

sustainability.richmond.edu

