



# Vermont Council on Rural Development

43 State Street, PO Box 1384, Montpelier VT 05601-1384

802-223-6091 • info@vtrural.org • www.vtrural.org

*Helping rural Vermonters create a sustainable future through effective use of public and private resources.*

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March 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2014, Sterling College joined with five other Vermont higher education institutions and the Vermont Council on Rural Development to sign a groundbreaking agreement to degree students who want to learn how to advance sustainable and robust food systems. By pledging to use Vermont as a shared food systems campus, the founding members of this new consortium will offer students a rich array of cross-institutional experiences and strengthen the state's reputation as the national educational leader in innovative food systems implementation.

This consortium is poised to foster the next generation of food system leaders. As Chuck Ross, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, said: "Vermont already leads the country in community-based agriculture and is renowned for its focus on sustainability. This consortium ensures the momentum will only build in the years to come."

Sterling's work in getting this consortium launched and helping to educate people to build a more just and healthy food systems is surely an innovation.

Sincerely,

Paul Costello

Executive Director