



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

May 9, 2014

Project Leader: Eric Benson
Project Team: Zack Grant, Steve Kostell, Kevin Wolz
Project: Farm and Fiber
Re: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee - Award Recommendation

Dear Professor Benson:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) that the Farm and Fiber project receives \$79,620 in grant funding for the following items: BCS Bailer and Hay Rake, Patz Bale Shredder Blower, bees, bee hives, bee equipment, improvements to walk-in cooler, 2014/2015 paid morning labor force, 2014/2015 half time worker, SSF/WPP Field Day promotion and printing and crops.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

- 1. All funds must be spent by May 31, 2016.
2. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Advisor by June 30, 2016.
3. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
4. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and Program Advisor.
5. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
6. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
7. Upon implementation, signage must educate the public about the project and its impact on campus.
8. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project.
9. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding. Projects must communicate with the SSC's External Vice Chair to come up with appropriate marketing for the project.
10. Projects must participate in the Campus Sustainability Symposium at least once before June 30, 2017.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the Chair, Marika Nell, at nell2@illinois.edu or the Student Programs & Activities Assistant Director, Dementro Powell, at dementro@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

SSC Signatories

Marika Nell 5/16/14
Marika Nell
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

Kathryn Kinley 5/16/14
Kathryn Kinley
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Eric Benson
Professor Eric Benson
Department of Art & Design

iSEE Signatory

Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director
Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Project Information

Project: Farm and Fiber

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$79,620

Award Code: 1-303692-526000-526244

Receiving Campus Unit: Art & Design

Unit Financial Contact: Sheryl Netherton, Assistant Director of Business and Financial Operations

E-mail : netherto@illinois.edu **Phone:** 217-244-4249

Primary Contact Person: Professor Eric Benson

E-mail: ebenson@illinois.edu **Phone:** 512-538-4211

Project Description: Part of the strategy for the funding requested by this proposal is for the SSF to break even in terms of costs/revenue. In 2013, the SSF generated \$60,000 in sales with \$50,000 in sales to the Dining Hall. To break even the SSF would need to generate \$130,000 to break even year to year. This includes the Farm Educator position, Farm Foreman, Seasonal Labor, and seasonal expenses. We are about \$70,000 short. Having another 3,000 square ft. high tunnel would increase yearly revenue by as much as \$15,000. Including another walk in cooler to our operation will allow us to generate another \$15,000 in revenue from root storage crops. This would bring us almost half way to our goal of another \$70,000 in revenue to approach our break-even point. The additional \$40,000 we hope to make up with increasing efficiencies to our systems. Part of that is the generation of fiber for weed control with the raking and baling equipment. Improving our weed control systems with this equipment will go a long way to help us generate part of that \$40,000. Adding the half time working and paid morning labor force will also allow us to physically harvest more produce that is going to waste, which should also help us generate the additional \$40,000 needed for the break even model. Fresh Press is looking to grow beyond being a campus project to modeling the potential of agri-fiber as a changing factor in the dependency on the tree-fiber based commercial paper industry. A team of faculty and grad students from FP have been selected to participate in the I-Corp Illinois program, which will put in place the framework for revenue generation, alignment with potential funders and preparation for national granting opportunities. We hope to grow to a model, where we can purchase agri-fiber from the SSF, providing additional revenue and continuing to close the zero-waste gap at the farm.