



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Funding Award and Acceptance Letter**

April 15, 2018

Project: Enhancing Learning and Volunteer Opportunities in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands

Dear Mx. McSweeney:

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 your project receives \$40,000 in grant funding.** This fully funds all items on your proposal.

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

1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Coordinator by **May 31, 2020.**
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
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 Coordinator.**
5. **All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.**
6. A willingness to be an active member of the SSC community, such as mentoring student applicants, while your project is active.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding.
9. 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. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

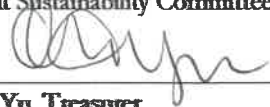
If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the **bottom of this letter.** **If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the Chair, Nick Heyek, at [nheyek2@illinois.edu](mailto:nheyek2@illinois.edu) or the SSC Coordinator, Cathy Liebowitz, at [cwl1517@illinois.edu](mailto:cwl1517@illinois.edu).** You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs 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.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**SSC Signatories**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Heyek, Chair  
Student Sustainability Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Olivia Yu, Treasurer  
Student Sustainability Committee

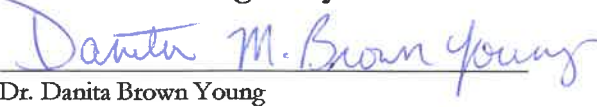
**Awardee Signatory**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin McSweeney  
Applicant

**iSEE Signatory**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director  
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

**Student Affairs Signatory**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Danita Brown Young  
Division of Student Affairs



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## Project Information

**Project: Enhancing Learning and Volunteer Opportunities in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands**

**Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee**

**Funding Amount: \$40,000**

**Receiving Campus Unit: Arboretum**

**Unit Financial Contact: Kelly Sullan**

**E-mail: [sullan@illinois.edu](mailto:sullan@illinois.edu)**

### **Project Description:**

The 22-acre Southern Arboretum Woodlands (SAW) continues to transform from a neglected research plantation into an ecologically diverse, accessible, and aesthetically attractive area. In 2012, the entire understory of the woods was filled with honeysuckle to the point where most other plants could not grow because sunlight could not reach the ground. During 2016 and 2017, SAW volunteers removed invasive species that dominated the understory of the SAW, including invasive plants along the edges of the woods and roadsides. Native woodland wildflowers were added to the east edge of the woods and an area along Lincoln in spring 2018. The goals of the next phase of the project are: 1) To continue the efforts towards suppression of invasive plants and establishment of native plants in the understory of the SAW. This will build a more diverse ecological community and improve its ecosystem services. 2) Enhance opportunities for students and community volunteers to transform the SAW into a campus and community resource. This will build a collective and sustainable ethic of engagement in natural resource management. 3) Establish a landscape that serves as a low impact recreational area and an outdoor laboratory for learning and outreach across a broad range of disciplines and interests. The proximity of the SAW-laboratory to campus will provide a convenient and distinctive location for enriching 'hands-on' learning and exploration for students. Moreover, students have and will continue to remain heavily involved in transforming the area, gaining skills in invasive species removal, landscape architecture, and ecological management. The allocated funding will go towards area management supplies, plant materials, wages, and outreach materials.

This proposal directly funds:

1. Plants
2. Management supplies, such as loppers and mixing buckets
3. Wages for a Restoration Technician
4. Signage