

View results

Respondent

4 Karin Hodgkin Jones

49:12

Time to complete

1. Date of this semester progress report submission *

12/18/2025

2. Name of project exactly as it was listed in your award letter *

Sustainable Design Workshops, Fall 2025

3. Date (or semester/year) of original award letter *

04/29/2025

4. Date of expiration listed on award letter (or on scope change approval if more recent) *

04/29/2027

5. Enter the total amount of the award, including any budget increases as a result of a previous scope change. *

\$5700

6. What is your project's 6 digit fund account number created for this project and to which the SSC allocation was transferred? *

Please ask your project's financial contact for this information if unknown.

No answer provided.

This question is required.

7. How much of your award has been spent to date (in dollars)? *

\$3225

8. Date of forecasted project completion *

04/29/2027

9. Have you submitted one or more semester progress reports previously? *

YES

NO

10. Describe, in detail, what has been completed on the project since the last semester progress report (or since the project commenced if you have not yet submitted a semester progress report)? *

Fall 2025 Sustainability Workshops and Barn Raising

Sustainable Design Director Karin Hodgin Jones and Program Coordinator Tali Weinberg organized a series of sustainability-focused events with Rick and Nic Collins, founders of Firmitas Timber. They manage a sustainable forest in western Illinois and produce timber-frame materials for large architectural structures using peg construction and modular components designed to last over 200 years and allow full deconstruction and reconstruction.

These events were funded by the \$5700 grant from the University of Illinois Student Sustainability Fund, Karin was awarded to support sustainability workshops for the BS in Sustainable Design program during AY 2025–2026. The program included two workshops and a public lecture:

Sunday, September 21 – Solar Mill Workshop

At the Illinois Forest Plantation south of campus, which features 100-year hardwood stands of over a dozen species, we demonstrated a solar-powered, battery-operated Wood-Mizer mill. The event was coordinated with Justin Vozzo (University of Illinois Extension Forestry) and Lowell Miller, the coordinator of the School of Architecture Fabrication Lab and Quinn Connolly, lead on the solar mill Student Sustainability Committee grant-supported project and Sustainability Intern at UIUC Facilities and Services. Participants toured the hardwood plantation and observed sustainable milling practices. Photos and videos are available in this folder. The project included the RSO's Epsilon Eta Epsilon (trEEE) and Root to Roof. The community and organization members who attended were undergraduate and graduate students and faculty from across Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Design. There were representatives from the Savanna Institute, University of Illinois Extension, Gies College of Business, NRES and retired faculty from earlier forestry programs in the College of LAS. This event put all participants in dialogue with others across the community interested in supporting a circular economy around

Monday, September 22 – Barn Raising with FAA 230

Rick and Nic joined Professor Hodgin Jones' FAA 230 course, Sustainable Design of the Built Environment, for a hands-on barn raising. This activity bridged modules on vernacular architecture and ecological accounting systems such as LEED and life-cycle assessment. Fifty students constructed and dismantled a peg-joined hardwood timber frame barn in 90 minutes. Photos and videos are available in this folder. This event was funded through BSSD funds but provided an opportunity for hands-on learning with students constructing the structure and learning about field techniques for preparing and refining timber frame joinery.

Monday, September 22 – Public lecture

Rick and Nic were welcomed by the community of students, scholars and public organizations to learn the history and future potential of timber frame construction within the arts and architecture. The talk featured multiple site examples of peg-construction barns and public buildings in the region that they have restored and/or relocated for long-term viability.

The video of the event is available on Illinois Media Space: https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_xfcgh6gf

11. Describe, in detail, the project's challenges/obstacles since your last semester progress report (or since the project commenced if you have not yet submitted a semester progress report)? *

The challenges have been working with the faculty member who requested funds for the Soil to Soul group to visit campus. The lack of clear communication and planning have delayed that project past the current fiscal year and will now require that the proposal and costs be resubmitted for review as the majority of those funds will come from the BSSD program. The program is currently shelved and we are discussing a modification of scope in Spring semester to support a different program in its place.

12. Describe, in detail, the project's successes since your last semester progress report (or since the project commenced if you have not yet submitted a semester progress report)? *

The initial workshop has forged clear supportive and durable relationships with a number of community partners and the RSO Root to Roof and the BSSD program. We are ready and excited to develop more programming to highlight and support the expansion of the Solar Mill project and to activate student research around the burgeoning forest management and development of timber and lumber products from the site. Approximately 60 students were directly engaged in the events that were open to the public on September 21-22 as well as 51 students who had hands-on experience in the barn raising event on September 22 in the FAA 230 Sustainable Design of the Built Environment course. Beyond the student engagement, 6 faculty members are not directly pursuing research collaborations with the solar mill and multiple community partners are seeking ways to support through outreach and/or research to support forest stewardship and the potential of additional projects that the workshops taught related to: circular material flows, design to dismantle, timber frame construction, healthy forest management and the role of timber harvesting, tree counts and LiDAR sensing for improved forest service efficiency.

13. How many students and how many non-students have been impacted by your project, thus far, and how? *

No answer provided.

This question is required.

14. Did your project have any changes to its team that SSC should know about (e.g., project lead, faculty/staff advisor, departmental financial contact)? *

NOTE: If yes, please ALSO complete the SSC Project Contact Information Change Form located at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/uBjx9nmNpG>

YES

NO

15. (OPTIONAL FOR SEMESTER REPORT) Upload project marketing and/or media not previously submitted in semester progress reports.

NOTE: Project marketing and/or media must include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee(s) funded the project.

 [SustainableTimber-RGB_Karin_Hodgin_Jones.pdf](#)

16. Complete and upload the semester financial documentation for your project. You should reflect all expenditures since your last semester project report. We strongly suggest that you also upload supporting financial documentation from Banner for your award CFOP. NOTE: When your project is completed and/or expired (whichever comes first), any remaining project funds will be transferred back to the SSC.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-SEMESTER-PROGRESS-REPORT-template.xlsx>

*

 [SSC-Budget-Timeline-SEMESTER-PROGRESS-REPORT- Karin_Hodgin_Jones.xlsx](#)