



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

December 16, 2019

Project: Valorizing Archived Soils and Long-Term Carbon Budgets

Dear Mx. Andrew Margenot:

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 **\$75,000** in grant funding.

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

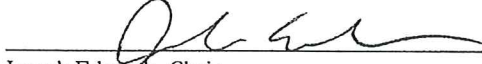
1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Coordinator by December of 2021.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The Contact Person will be individually responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
5. 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 Coordinator.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
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.
10. Funding will NOT cover travel expenses.

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 SSC, at sustainability-committee@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.

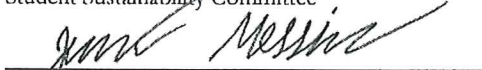


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SSC Signatories



Joseph Edwards, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee



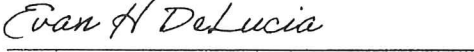
Jonah Messinger, Treasurer
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory



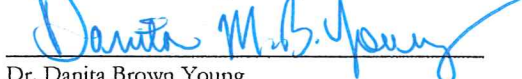
Andrew Margenot
Applicant

iSEE Signatory



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

Student Affairs Signatory



Dr. Danita Brown Young
Division of Student Affairs



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Project Information

Project: Valorizing Archived Soils and Long-Term Carbon Budgets

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$75,000

Receiving Campus Unit: Crop Sciences

Unit Financial Contact: Anna Tammen

E-mail: amtammen@illinois.edu

Project Description:

We propose to restore, digitize, and make open-access this historical resource for educational and research purposes, reinforcing the University of Illinois' position as a leader in agricultural and environmental sciences. Importantly, we believe that this resource and its lessons should be made accessible to the public. To achieve this goal, a graduate student-led undergraduate team mentored by the PIs will conduct a restoration and archiving effort to rescue and digitize the samples and data of this centennial soil archive. The specific outcomes of this work include:

- 1) Provide undergraduate students hands-on and practical experience through including them from the start of the project. This will include assistance with standard operating procedure development for inventorying samples and collecting new samples.
- 2) Enable testing of fundamental questions on the sustainability of agriculture in Illinois and the greater US Midwest by having a window back in time to how soil fertility has changed over the past century. Though a plurality of questions can be answered, for this work we will start by measuring carbon in these archived soils in order to establish a historical sequence of soil carbon changes and thus sequestration deficits and potential in Illinois.
- 3) Offer a platform for University undergraduate and graduate students to pursue student-focused research funding such as the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) proposal as well as NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF). Additionally, faculty will benefit by being able to leverage this resource for future student-focused projects.
- 4) Restore and steward a valuable resource of our land grant university that is unique in the United States, which can be used in future student and faculty learning opportunities via classroom and student-focused projects.



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- 5) Build a database for 'big picture' questions in environmental sciences, geospatial statistics, and agricultural sciences for use in the classroom.
- 6) Establish an open-access, online database that will capitalize on this unique historical archive to enable additional students and researchers from other land-grant universities.
- 7) Publicize and disseminate findings and open-access database, both on-campus through a seminar and panel discussion, and off-campus by public outreach events in Chicago at the Chicago Field Museum and the Good Food Expo.

This proposal directly funds:

1. Publicity
2. Wages
3. Shelving, tables, labels
4. Sampling analysis and sample collection