

Environmental Studies Program

3/13/2017

Fred Iutzi
President
The Land Institute
Salina, KS

Re: Letter affirming importance of The Land Institute to the Academic Mission of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Kansas

Dear Fred,

I write to affirm the importance of The Land Institute to the academic mission of the Environmental Studies Program. We have approximately 200 majors in our program, earning BA and BS degrees. Many of these students go on to work for state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, municipal and county agencies, and education; others work for environmental consulting firms, and some even start their own environment-related firms. In much of our curriculum, we teach about the importance of understanding how our native prairies work as ecological systems, and what we can learn from that system that has formed on earth over such a long period of time. Some of the best answers to the problems farmers and society face in our agriculture may come from a better understanding of the prairie itself. And so as students leave KU to start their careers, they take with them a curiosity about the natural world and an understanding that they have to look no further than what's right around them to find solutions to the problems we face.

This is why we are so happy and proud to have the Land Institute as a partner in educating our students. Whether helping provide information and material for a class, or having one of your researchers come to campus to talk with our students about the research done in Salina, the Land Institute has an impact. With Land Institute activities coming ever closer to our campus at the Gorrill Farmstead near Lawrence, we are certain our relationship will benefit our students and state even more for years to come.

Sincerely,



J. Christopher Brown, PhD
Professor and Director