



## NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH · UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

13 May 2021

To the Awards Committee:

Please accept this enthusiastic letter of support for the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) grant application prepared by Dr. Eli Wheat. Dr. Wheat, who serves as co-chair of the UW Farm Advisory Committee and is a core faculty member in the Nutritional Sciences Program and the Program on the Environment, seeks funding to support an *Interim Development Coordinator* for the UW Farm. This 50% Graduate RA position would provide essential services to support and coordinate ongoing academic use of the UW Farm, and would also seek out new relationships across campus with academic units, offices, and registered student organizations.

The Nutritional Sciences Program acknowledges and appreciates the importance of the UW Farm in our students' experiences. Every year, the Farm serves as a living laboratory in NUTR 302 and NUTR 303 (both required course in our Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health major); it has also been home to undergraduate internships, and graduate fieldwork and practicum projects for students in our program. We know that the educational opportunities and benefits experienced by our students are also enjoyed by many other students and programs across campus. The UW Farm Advisory Committee has discussed the need for an academic coordinator for several years to aid the farm manager in facilitating these academic demands. Dr. Wheat's grant proposal extends that coordinator position beyond current users to also invite and educate future users to enjoy those benefits. In so doing, the likelihood of building relationships that will move the farm toward a more sustainable presence on campus – fully engaged in both academic offerings and productivity - will be enhanced.

Currently, the Farm manager position is funded by Housing and Food Services, the College of the Environment, and the Nutritional Sciences Program. We intend to continue our funding of that position, and we are eager for the Farm to realize increased support through the efforts of the *Interim Development Coordinator* proposed.

In summary, the Nutritional Sciences Program strongly endorses Dr. Wheat's CSF grant application. The need for a Development Coordinator is only growing, and the funding requested will be invaluable to further defining that position and securing more permanent funding in the future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Kirk PhD, RDN

Associate Director, Nutritional Sciences Program

Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Epidemiology

