



**School of Environmental  
and Forest Sciences**

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
College of the Environment

April 18, 2016

To the Campus Sustainability Fund:

I am writing in complete support of the SER-UW Nursery Improvements project submitted by Courtney Bobsin and Mary-Margaret Greene. I am the faculty advisor of SER-UW, our student chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. SER is recognized globally as the professional society for restoration ecologists. Courtney and Mary-Margaret are active members of SER-UW and took the initiative to develop this project to leverage previous CSF support and enhance the work that SER-UW is doing.

Last year, CSF supported the construction of a hoophouse that provides critical physical infrastructure for the SER-UW nursery. The current proposal would support two part-time student positions to oversee the nursery. One of these positions would focus on propagation research and implementation while the other focuses on education and curriculum planning. These efforts would provide many benefits, including enhanced hands-on horticulture learning opportunities for students while producing more plant material and of better quality.

This proposal would supplement the current plant production and restoration ecology opportunities on campus. Students in various ESRM and SEFS courses – including two that I teach (*Native Plant Production*, *Introduction to Restoration Ecology*) – are interested in working in the hoophouse. In addition, this support would encourage SER-UW to increase its efforts to influence the sustainability of campus projects by providing an internal source of native species for use by UW Grounds Management, in student research, and in class projects. For example, several students in our Masters of Environmental Horticulture (MEH) program are doing on-campus projects that require more native plants than are currently available.

Please strongly consider funding this project. The resulting support will provide a bustling horticultural education hub for our undergraduate and graduate students and improve the sustainability of UW's practices by facilitating the use of native plants on campus.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Bakker  
David R.M. Scott Associate Professor  
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

