



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

15610 Vaughn Road

Brecksville, Ohio 44141-3097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

10.D. (CUVA)

March 1, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio 44242

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

We are pleased to express our support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University. Cuyahoga Valley National Park is part of the National Park Service. This federal agency is responsible for land stewardship within the National Park System, and also leads community programs that promote stewardship activities in nearly every county in the United States. Providing related educational programs and visitor services is also part of our mission.

We rely on an environmentally literate staff that has a thorough knowledge of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy, and sustainability science. Our agency needs people to conduct environmental policy analysis, assess the environmental impacts of particular activities, and work to educate the public about the environment. We believe that the curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field.

The National Park Service has over 20,000 employees and works with many partner organizations. We hire many students through Pathways and other internship programs. A number of employees of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its partners are recent graduates of Kent State University.

We look forward to seeing Kent State University expand majors that can lead to careers with the National Park Service. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Craig Kenkel
Superintendent



February 23, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my interest and support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University. As the Sustainable Communities Advocate for the "Greenest Zoo in America", I understand the demand for more graduates in this type of field. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's goal is to inspire visitors with wildlife every day. Our mission and vision is dedicated to creating adventure, conveying knowledge, conserving nature, and serving the community. We cannot fulfill this mission without staff that is not only dedicated and believes in this mission, but also understands the very real impact we all have on the planet.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is attuned to the real-world demands and expectations placed on individuals in this field. We rely on an environmentally literate staff who have a thorough knowledge of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy, and sustainability science. Our organization needs people to conduct field research, work as sustainability coordinators, assess the environmental impacts of particular activities, work to educate the public about environmental risks and issues, construct and manage sustainable buildings, and solve real world challenges. Individuals that have completed an Environmental Studies major possess the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill many of these needs. Many of our current animal keepers, environmental educators, and sustainability focuses positions have a background in Environmental Studies or Environmental Science.

I believe that the curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field. I believe that the completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world. Most importantly, I believe a student's studies and experience in this degree will help create more conservationists that are as dedicated to protecting this planet and its natural resources as we are.

I look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops, and assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where I can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,

Fia Cifuentes
Sustainable Communities Advocate
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
sophia.cifuentes@cincinnati-zoo.org
(513) 487-3355



1101 17 Street, NW • Suite 250 • Washington, DC 20036-4722 • TEL 202/530-5810 • FAX 202/628-4311 • www.NCSEonline.org

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February 24, 2018

Dr. David Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
440 McGilvrey Hall

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

I am pleased to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

The Center for Environmental Education Research (CEER) at the National Council for Science and the Environment conducts longitudinal, empirical research on interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability (IES) education and research across the US. Our research provides evidence of the relevance of the proposed program in the national IES higher education and workforce landscape.

IES education is in high demand. The number of IES programs continues to increase dramatically—by 57% from 2008 to 2012. Matriculation in IES program also increased over the same four years—average number of majors rose 49% for undergraduate programs and 15% for master's programs over the four year period.¹ Indications are these trends are continuing.

Job opportunities for the graduates of IES programs are strong. The United States Department of Labor predicts an 11% increase in the number of environmental scientist and specialist positions between 2014 and 2024, higher than the average for physical scientists (7%), and higher than the average for all occupations (7%).² A 2013 study revealed that college graduates in environmental fields have some of the lowest unemployment rates compared with other majors including majors in other physical and life sciences.³

The 2008 Jobs and Environment Initiative study analyzed the environmental job market nationally and in nine states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin). It identified the size of the environmental industry as \$341 billion/year and growing (projected to reach \$496 billion in 2020; larger than most industrial sectors and the top Fortune 500) and estimated that the industry was responsible for the creation of 5.3 million jobs in 2005 distributed across all employment sectors.⁴ The study also found that the environmental sector is more resilient or "recession-proof" in economic downturns. In Ohio, this sector represented 3.2% of state GDP and 3.5% of jobs.

¹ Vincent, Bunn and Sloane (2013) Interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability education on the nation's campuses 2012: curriculum design. National Council for Science and the Environment. Washington DC.

² Bureau of Labor Statistics. US Department of Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook 2016-17 Edition: Environmental Scientists and Specialists*. <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/environmental-scientists-and-specialists.htm>

³ Carnevale and Cheah (2013) *Hard Times: College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

⁴ Bezdek, Wendling, and DiPerna (2008) Environmental Protection, the economy, and jobs: National and regional analyses. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 86, 63-79

The Environmental Studies program would represent the first interdisciplinary environmental degree program at Kent State. The University offers discipline-based programs with environmental concentrations—in environmental geology, environmental and conservation biology, public health environmental sciences, and architecture and environmental design—but no degree programs in the distinct field of IES studies. Kent State lags other research universities in establishing such programs, almost all US research universities (98%) offer environmental studies, environmental science, sustainability and/or other IES degree programs—and many offer a variety of IES degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral level.

I believe that the creation of this degree program will benefit the university and its mission and the Kent State students who desire IES education and careers in the dynamic and rapidly growing environmental workforce sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Vincent, PhD
Director, Center for Environmental Education Research
National Council for Science and the Environment

cc: Michelle Wyman, Executive Director, NCSE



Environmental Health
Watch
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- Shanelle Smith, Deputy Director, Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability

March 2, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

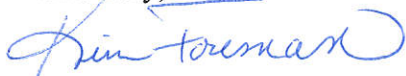
I am excited to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

The mission of Environmental Health Watch is to offer information, assistance and advocacy to help people protect themselves from environmental threats and to influence corporate, government and personal actions to promote human health and sustain the natural environment. Our programs encompass two broad and interrelated areas: Healthy and Green Housing and Community Environmental Health, with an overarching focus on greenhouse gas reduction. Our knowledgeable and experienced staff works on real-world solutions for our communities and our environment.

Through our ongoing programs and research projects Environmental Health Watch has employed people to provide education, assessments of environmental risks to human health, and on policy development. I believe that students in the proposed Environmental Studies major will gain knowledge in social and environmental issues that is critical to our work. Completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world.

I look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops, and to assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kim Foreman, Executive Director
Environmental Health Watch



Kurtz Bros., Inc.

We Make The Good Earth Better!

KURTZ BROS., INC. Corporate Office, Cleveland

PO Box 31179 Independence, OH 44131 (216) 986-7000

March 3, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

I am excited to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

Kurtz Bros., Inc. is an Ohio-based construction and landscape material supplier. Our vision is to be the waste-to-resource leader in the United States through the development of innovative products, services and solutions which provide value to our customers and help form a more sustainable planet to "make the good earth better". Our company is attuned to the real-world demands and expectations placed on individuals in this field. We rely on an environmentally literate staff that has a thorough knowledge of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy and sustainability science. Our company needs people to conduct environmental policy analysis, work as sustainability coordinators, assess the environmental impacts of particular activities, work to educate the public about environmental risks and other tasks. I believe that the curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field. Most importantly, I believe that the completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world.

I look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops and to assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities.

If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216-986-7020 (office) or via e-mail at johnk@kurtz-bros.com. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,

John T. Kurtz
President
Kurtz Bros., Inc.
www.kurtz-bros.com

February 26, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio 44242

Re: Letter of Support for Environmental Studies Major at Kent State University

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

EnviroScience, Inc. recognizes the importance of understanding the interrelatedness of humans and the environment. In fact, we embody this concept as our work has supported environmental design and regulatory requirements servicing federal, state, and municipal governments, ODOT and other DOTs, as well as mining, industrial, engineering and the private sector since our inception in Ohio in 1989. During EnviroScience's history, we have hired 18 undergraduates and 5 graduates with Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctorate degrees from Kent State University. We recognize that Kent State University produces talented and dedicated students that transition into highly productive employees.

The proposed curriculum for the Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy, and sustainability science. Our company relies on people with skills in these areas and we believe that completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world. We fully support the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University and look forward to working with graduates from this program.

We also look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops and assisting with internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact EnviroScience, Inc. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Respectfully on behalf of EnviroScience, Inc.,



Emmalisa Kennedy
Wetland Ecologist



Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706

Direct: 408 526 4000
FAX: 408 526 4100
www.cisco.com

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

I am excited to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

Global companies like Cisco Systems have moved beyond simple compliance and cost management. Sustainability is a core strategy for growing revenue as well as attracting and retaining top talent.

This shift requires passionate and knowledgeable individuals who show up on day one with a fundamental understanding of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy, and sustainability science. We rely on these people either as direct employees or through our service delivery vendors to not only assess the environmental impacts of operations, but to innovate new ways to achieve goals and drive the sustainability conversation forward at a global scale. The curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field. Most importantly, I believe that the completion of this degree in conjunction with the strength of the general education provided by Kent State will open up career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world regardless of whether they focus on an environmental career or not.

I look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops, and to assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,

Ali H. Ahmed
Senior Manager
Global Energy Management and Sustainability
aliahme@cisco.com
Phone: +1 330 523 2021
Mobile: +1 216 392 2483



**PORTAGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**District Recycling Center
William G. Steiner II, Director**

PortageRecycles.com

Solid Waste Management District Commissioners
Kathleen Chandler, Maureen T. Frederick, Vicki A. Kline, CPA

March 2, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

I am excited to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

It is the mission of Portage County Solid Waste Management District to provide the highest quality, cost effective and integrated recycling services to the residents and commercial/industrial sectors of Portage County. The District provides ethical environmental leadership and education to promote the public good through innovative and responsible strategies leading to the management of all waste as a resource. Our staff, which includes the Director of the Portage County Solid Waste District, a Planner, an Education specialist, and an Environmental compliance officer, must be well versed in the social and environmental issues in our district. The proposed Environmental Studies major will help students gain the knowledge that is needed to work productively in the environmental field.

I look forward to working with Kent State and the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops, and to assist students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,

William G. Steiner II

Director

Portage County Solid Waste Management District

February 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to express our support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

The Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA) is a 501(c)(3) network of leading corporations, regional universities and research institutions, public agencies, stewardship organizations and utilities in Ohio that serves to coordinate, facilitate, and foster economic development through a water innovation cluster and accelerator while elevating the value of Ohio's fresh water assets. Northeast Ohio has a unique eco-structure of water related industry and researchers that contribute over \$6 billion in direct economic impact to Northeast Ohio's economy annually.

CWA and its members are attuned to the real-world workforce development demands and expectations placed on individuals in the field of sustainability. We rely on an environmentally literate workforce who have a thorough knowledge of human-natural systems, environmental social science, environmental policy, sustainability science, and impacts facing our communities around water quality and quantity concerns. Our organization and its members need people to conduct environmental policy analysis, work as sustainability coordinators, assess the environmental impacts of particular activities, work to educate the public about environmental risks, drive economic value from sustainable practices, and other tasks. I believe that the curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field. Most importantly, I believe that the completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world not only in Northeast Ohio but beyond.

I look forward to working with Kent State University as this new program develops, and to assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,



Bryan Stubbs
Executive Director

Cleveland Water Alliance

1240 Huron Rd. E., Cleveland, OH 44115 | 216-592-2490 | www.clevelandwateralliance.org

March 7, 2016

Dr. David Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
413 McGilvrey Hall

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

I am excited to express my support for the proposed Environmental Studies major at Kent State University's Department of Geography.

For the past 12 years, I have been a GIS specialist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I have worked with many coworkers and colleagues who specialize in environmental and natural science fields. I have observed first-hand the expertise and passion required to excel in these positions. Many of the professionals that I have worked with have earned advanced degrees in biology, conservation, forestry, geology, natural resources or environmental studies. I believe that an established Environmental Studies curriculum at Kent State University will greatly prepare graduating students for a broad range of environmental career opportunities in these and related fields. The proposed curriculum is balanced and diverse and will greatly expand students' knowledge and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world.

I believe that the creation of this degree program is a prime example of the Department of Geography's continual growth and demonstrates a commitment to students. As a proud alumni of Kent State University's Department of Geography (B.A. 2001, M.A. 2003), I fully support the Department's establishment of an accredited Environmental Studies program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian D. George". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian D. George, M.A., GISP
GIMS Specialist, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Kent State University, Department of Geography Alumni



March 2, 2016

Dr. David H. Kaplan
Department of Geography
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

Dear Dr. Kaplan,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies degree program at Kent State University.

The Office of Sustainability works to implement sustainable practices at Kent State University in areas such as energy, transportation, waste reduction, food and green building. This requires a broad knowledge of social and environmental systems and their interrelationship. When hiring we look for individuals with an education in environmental issues as well as experience with the realities of implementing positive change. The curriculum of the proposed Environmental Studies major will greatly expand students' knowledge in this ever-evolving field, and the experiential learning in the required senior project will be invaluable. Most importantly, I believe that the completion of this degree will broaden career opportunities and beneficially position graduates to excel in the professional world.

I look forward to working with the Environmental Studies committee as this new program develops, and to assisting program students and graduates in finding internships and possible employment opportunities. If there are any additional areas where we can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. Once again, we are excited about the future of this new program and the highly qualified professionals it will create.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie J. Knowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melanie" and last name "Knowles" clearly distinguishable.

Melanie J. Knowles