



Office of the Brooklyn Borough President

April 29, 2013

Hasher Nisar
State Farm Youth Advisory Board
Associate Member, Eastern Region
State Farm Corporate Headquarters
Bloomington, Illinois 61710

Dear Mr. Nisar;

I am writing in support of the service learning grant application submitted by the Hospitality Department of the New York City College of Technology (City Tech) in Brooklyn, New York. City Tech will use the funds to create a *Compost Lab* which will allow them to compost food waste from their culinary classes, thereby diverting over a ton of organic material out of the waste stream each year. Moreover, instead of contributing to landfills and releasing climate warming methane gas, the *Compost Lab* will create a valuable garden resource.

The nearby Brooklyn neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill have scores of community gardens that provide vegetables, flowers and a quiet green space for local residents. By working with the *Compost Lab*, two of these gardens— Red Gate Community Garden and the Trilok School Greenhouse can benefit from this nutrient- rich compost. This collaboration between the City Tech's Hospitality Department and the local garden community can provide educational opportunities for grade school children and more experienced gardeners. The project's major objective is for all involved to learn how the latest high tech composting systems can work in an urban food service operation.

Although it is a small step, tying together cooking, gardening and waste management, the *Compost Lab* is part of the larger effort to build a more sustainable urban food system in the City of New York. On behalf of the 2.6 million residents of Brooklyn, I thank you for making our borough a greener place to live and work!

Sincerely,

Marty Markowitz

MM/ee