

## Field Trip Memo

**To:** Eileen Cashman and Leslie Miller Robbie

**From:** Ernesto Silva

**Subject:** Describing Trip To Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT) and Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC)

**Date:** April 21, 2016

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memo is to describe the field trip to CCAT and SERC on April 15, 2016. I will talk about projects being done at these locations, summarize my experience and also ideas for projects i could be apart of.

### **Discussion**

The purpose of our trip to CCAT and to SERC was to gain an understanding on what goes on at these locations and the type of work that is done their. It was meant to help us think about projects that we could be involved in or will be involved in the future. As well as to give us information on some of the designs and projects that have been done in the past and currently by students and professionals.

One design project that was being conducted by CCAT was the construction of planters made from moss and a mix of cement. They are making these planters from a mixture of moth and cement to try and minimize the amount of cement laid down, as well as insure durability. By using less cement and more moss the planters are eco-friendly and allow the ground to still absorb moisture and be effective. The planters benefit the school community as well since the food grown is free to students and provides a fresh local means of vegetation.

During our time at SERC we were told about a project that took place a few years ago in Bhutan that was very interesting. The project involved installing a device in all of the homes of the particular village that would give off a light when the power grid was getting overran and the people needed to disconnect there big appliances such as their rice cookers. The village was dealing with a problem where too many people had their rice cookers on at once and was over running the power grid. This device helped inform people of when this might happen in order to prevent the grid from being overran. The device also allowed them to finish cooking their rice if it was already started to minimize waste of food. This kind of project is something i would be very interesting in taking part of in the future whether with SERC or another group on campus. Learning about this project to me was the most interesting part of the trip, because it showed us an example of some of the work I might be doing in the future.

### **Conclusion**

The trip to me was a great experience overall and showed me a lot about the kind of projects being conducted on campus. It also helped me think about the kind of projects i would like to be involved in myself. It was very interesting and provided me with a lot of useful and beneficial information. The trip was a success and look forward to more in the future.