

## Fast Facts

Founded in 1958 in Craftsbury Common, Vermont, Sterling College is the leading voice in higher education for environmental stewardship and rural place-based education. The College was among the first colleges in the United States to focus on sustainability through academic majors in Ecology, Environmental Humanities, Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems, and Outdoor Education. Sterling is home to the School of the New American Farmstead and the Wendell Berry Farming Program, and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education.

Sterling College was ranked No. 13 in the Liberal Arts Colleges category of the 2018 “Washington Monthly” college rankings. Sterling’s high placement is due to its integration of community service into the curriculum and mission to educate and graduate environmental stewards.

- The College’s motto is “Working Hands. Working Minds.”
- Sterling College was one of the first liberal arts colleges in the world to focus exclusively on environmental stewardship education.
- 80% of electricity on campus is produced through solar power.
- For four consecutive years, Sterling has received a STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).
- #1 healthiest dining hall in the country, ranked 60% higher than the national average.
- #11 coolest school in the country as ranked by Sierra Magazine.
- Student-to-Faculty ratio is 6:1.
- 21% of the student body are first generation college students.
- All students living on campus work to help pay for books, housing and meals.
- 79% of students come from the Northeast.
- 61% of students are Pell Grant recipients.
- Sterling students graduate with 50% less loan debt than the national average.
- Tuition, room and board in 2018-19 is 20% less than other private New England colleges.



***Sterling College was one of the first liberal arts colleges in the world to focus exclusively on environmental stewardship education.***

Work Colleges are an exceptional group of four-year, degree granting, liberal arts institutions that engage students in the purposeful integration of work, learning, and service. The work college model is student-centered and designed to enhance and enrich the educational experience while reducing the cost of education. Unique to work colleges is the requirement that resident students participate in a work-learning-service program for all four years of enrollment. Working in a supportive campus environment has been shown to have a positive effect on college persistence and degree completion.

# #2

baccalaureate college in North America for campus sustainability.

# 30%

of Sterling’s food is grown on campus.



## LOW DEBT & CAREER READY\*

**49.6%**

of 2018 graduates had ZERO debt!

**69%**

of 2018 graduates had less than \$10,000 in student loan debt

**64.8%**

of full-time degree seeking students are PELL eligible

**5000**

The number of full-time students participating in the comprehensive work-learning-service program (per federal regulation).

**13:1**

The average student faculty ratio

\*data compiled in Fall 2018 from all WCC member institutions

## WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT

1. Problem solving skills
2. Ability to work in a team
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Leadership
5. Strong work ethic
6. Analytical skills
7. Communication skills (verbal)
8. Initiative
9. Detail oriented
10. Flexibility and adaptability

Source: Job Outlook 2018 | National Association of Colleges and Employers | www.nace.org

## WORK COLLEGES PREPARE AND DELIVER



**91%**

of the respondents\* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen problem-solving skills.



**87%**

of the respondents\* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen skills for working cooperatively in groups/teams.



**90%**

of the respondents\* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen communication skills.



**89%**

of the respondents\* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen leadership skills.



**85%**

of the respondents\* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen work ethic.

\*Spring 2018 Graduates from Berea College, Blackburn College, College of the Ozarks, and Warren Wilson College.



## Sterling Made the Lists...

- **#2 baccalaureate college in the nation for campus sustainability** – *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*
- **#1 healthiest dining hall in the country**, ranked 60% higher than the national average – *Bon Appétit Magazine*
- **Top 11 coolest school in the country, 2018** – *Sierra Magazine*
- **A 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 STARS** (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) **Gold rated higher education institution.** – *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*
- **3rd college in US to divest from fossil fuel & 1st in Vermont.**

### **Donor Impact Report as of 9/27/18**

Sterling completed its five-year comprehensive campaign, **Nourish the Roots**, on June 30, 2018.

**\$11,640,430**

Total Raised during the NTR Campaign

**1,300**

Total Donors

**4,584**

Total Gifts

**417**

Total Alumni Donors

**640**

Total First Time Donors

**140**

Total New Alumni Donors

**96%**

Of our BA alumni report that they were employed within the first year after graduation.

**90%**

Of our alumni report that they are meeting their career goals.



**14,298**

Total combined student work hours during the 2016-2017 academic year.



**WC**

A federally recognized Work College. All students work at campus jobs to help offset the cost of tuition.



**80**

The number of hours, on average, that each Sterling student works per semester.



**88%**

of Work College graduates agree that work program experience was an important way to reduce their college cost.



**88%**

of Work College graduates report their work program experience helped them learn how to work cooperatively in groups and teams.

**61%**

of students are Pell Grant recipients.

**80%**

of electricity on campus is produced through solar power.

**30%**

of Sterling's food is grown on campus.

**50%**

Sterling Alumni complete their degree with less loan debt than the national average

**6:1**

student to faculty ratio

**34%**

of the students self-design an interdisciplinary major.

**20%**

Tuition, room and board in 2018-19 is less than other New England private colleges.

**12.6%**

identify as students of color.

**21%**

of the student body are first generation college students (2017-2018).

