

UCCS WINS BRONZE: BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITYSM

By Matthew Driftmier

What keeps you from commuting to and around UCCS? Sweating? The Austin Bluffs hill? Weather? Time? As of October 2014, the barrier of limited bike infrastructure has been removed. UCCS has been recognized as a bronze Bicycle Friendly UniversitySM by the League of American Bicyclists.

With the announcement of 33 new and renewing Bike Friendly Universities today in 20 states, UCCS joins a cutting-edge group of colleges and universities from across the United States transforming their campuses and the communities around them. There are now 100 Bike Friendly Universities in 37 states and Washington, D.C.

"Campus leaders are recognizing the real-time and long term impact that a culture of bicycling can create," said Andy Clarke, President of the League of American Bicyclists. "We applaud this new round of colleges and universities for investing in a more sustainable future for the country and a healthier future for their staff, students and surrounding communities."

With a free bike share program for students, a full-service bicycle workshop, and a Parking and Transportation Services office dedicated to the bicycling cause, traveling to, from, and around campus has never been easier. UCCS encourages bicycling as an easy option for transportation and provides amenities such as seven different showering locations and incentives including the Pedal Perks program, a bicycle incentive program provided through a generous grant from Kaiser Permanente.

The spirit of transportation at UCCS can be summed up in the words of the campus Sustainable Transportation Assistant, Matthew Driftmier: "Education is hard. Getting to campus shouldn't be."

Moving forward, UCCS will have access to a variety of free tools and technical assistance from the League to become even more bicycle-friendly. The University has also created a Bicycle Advisory Committee, comprised of students, faculty, and staff, looking at bicycling issues and ways to improve the campus. To join or give feedback, contact Andrea Hassler at ahassler@uccs.edu.

When colleges and universities invest in bicycling, great things happen: decreased carbon foot print, reduced health care costs, and an increased connection to our community, resulting in a fun and healthy campus culture.

To learn more about the free Bike Friendly University program, visit the League online at www.bikeleague.org/university.