



BUTLER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

4600 Sunset Avenue | Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 | 317-940-9900 | Fax: 317-940-9504 | www.butler.edu

September 21, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education,

Butler University is proud to resubmit to AASHE STARS to affirm our commitment to sustainability in higher education. Butler first submitted a STARS assessment in 2018 and was awarded a rating of bronze. Through University leadership and our continued dedication to sustainability, Butler aims to achieve STARS silver in this 2021 reporting process.

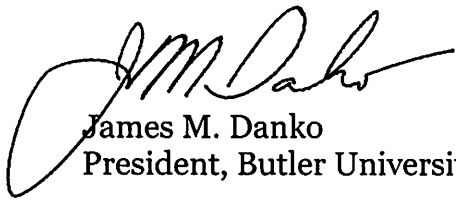
Butler University continues to innovate and propel our national reputation as signified by our ranking of #1 in Regional Universities Midwest and #1 Most Innovative School in the Midwest via U.S. News and World Report in 2022. As a small, private institution dedicated to the student experience, we prioritize providing a multitude of ways for students to engage in curricular and co-curricular opportunities in sustainability, social justice, community engagement, research, and innovation. We take pride in our University's founding mission and principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Butler University continues to incorporate DEI into campus life and operations, most recently through the development of The Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement, a Social Justice and Diversity Vocational Fellowship to assist faculty in incorporating DEI into curriculum, an assessment of campus police to address concerns regarding racial bias, and a University-supported DEI Fund for campus initiatives. Further description of these noteworthy initiatives are in the Points of Distinction category, as these highlight Butler's continued commitment to DEI, an integral component of sustainability.

Sustainability is widely recognized as a unifying framework in higher education that models community responsibility, creates cross-disciplinary curricular and co-curricular collaborations, provides a framework for student leadership and faculty research, enhances student recruitment and admissions, improves campus aesthetics and resiliency, and achieves gains in return on investment. Over the last seven years, Butler University has made significant declarations to reduce its negative impacts to the environment, including a commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 as a signatory of the Second Nature Presidents' Carbon Commitment. In 2019, we updated our Butler University Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (BUSCA) to align University goals with AASHE STARS. Butler's 2018 STARS submission was crucial to developing our baseline and was influential in the development of a roadmap for increasing

sustainability performance across campus via BUSCA. Butler University continues to prioritize sustainability throughout operations, academics, and campus life through the ideas and dedication of our campus community.

Universities can—and should be—at the forefront of exploring innovative solutions, propelling research into action while creating the next generation of change agents. Butler acknowledges its moral and educational role in inspiring change agents through innovative projects while also recognizing the benefits of this leadership to institutional efficiency and operational cost savings. Butler University is dedicated to sustainability, as highlighted by programs and initiatives in our 2021 STARS submission. We look forward to continuing to work toward a more sustainable campus and contributing to a more sustainable city and world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J M Danko", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

James M. Danko
President, Butler University