



BUTLER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

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

October 9, 2018

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

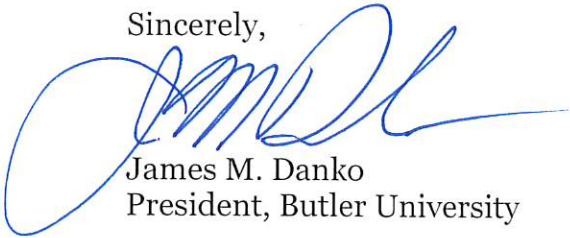
Dear AASHE Steering Committee and Sustainability Colleagues:

Butler University is proud to submit to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for recognition as a STARS participant. As a private, liberal arts university with 4,700 undergraduate students, we recognize the importance of sustainability in preparing our students for lives of responsible global citizenship. Our credence *The Butler Way* means faculty, staff, and students are committed to accepting our current reality while working toward improvement every day. The STARS process has further confirmed that—by leveraging the liberal arts tradition and *The Butler Way*—there is a potent opportunity to engage a broad array of academic disciplines and administrative units in our efforts to promote a sustainable campus, community, and world. In a sustainability context, *The Butler Way* means that administrative leaders and faculty members must guide students toward responsible stewardship of our campus, our region, and our planet through bold decisions and ambitious goals to reach the highest levels of excellence at our University.

On behalf of Butler University, I signed the President's Climate Action Commitment in 2012. Our campus leaders spent the next two years establishing a Sustainability Council and developing a Sustainability Coordinator position. Our first Sustainability and Climate Action Plan was drafted in 2014. While we have made progress educating the Butler community on sustainability through our recycling, composting, and materials reuse programs, as well as key infrastructural improvements to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. The STARS process provided us with a much-needed baseline that will help us continue to improve educational and operational aspects of sustainability at the University. Perhaps more impactful was uncovering a potent opportunity to leverage the Science, Technology, and Environmental Studies program, the Center for Urban Ecology, our campus farm and other green spaces, broad faculty interest in sustainability, the Center for Citizenship and Community, and a rising wave of co-curricular student engagement in sustainability through student clubs and student government to significantly improve sustainability at Butler. These successes show us that we can move forward quickly in the areas of academic and student engagement, while moving toward larger capital investment improvements in University operations.

Because of our desire to move ourselves forward as sustainability leaders among higher education institutions, our submission has been through multiple reviews by responsible parties, the Office of the Provost, and my office to ensure accuracy in reporting. We are committed to submitting STARS regularly in order to track our progress and inform decisions about our continued commitments to sustainability. I look forward continued work with Butler students, faculty, and staff to advance sustainability in Butler's curriculum, student projects, campus master planning, and operations in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JMD', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

James M. Danko
President, Butler University