



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 1, 2023

Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director, AASHE
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

Duquesne University continues to advance its commitment to sustainability, evidenced by initiatives that impact our campus and our surrounding community. Last July, the university created a new Sustainability Committee, which will foster opportunities for multidisciplinary engagement across academic units, facilities, and University leadership. Like all the work we do, the committee's efforts are informed by Duquesne University's Catholic mission, which conveys our commitment to serving God through ethical and ecumenical service to the community, the nation, and the world.

Last summer we also marked the second successful season for our campus produce garden, which engages faculty, staff, and students and donates produce to be used in local food banks, while fostering plant biodiversity and helping to combat stormwater overflow.

We were proud, this past year, to receive Tree Campus Higher Education recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation. Only 10 percent of college and university campuses across the United States hold this recognition, which honors effective campus forest management and engagement of staff and students in conservation goals. Duquesne achieved the distinction by meeting Tree Campus Higher Education's five standards, including maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project.

Academically, nowhere is our dedication to sustainability more evident than in our Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, which houses graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs in environmental science and environmental studies. Through these programs, Duquesne students study and promote sustainability directly within our region, such as in a stream field biology course, where they work with local watershed groups. We are also immensely proud of the award-winning MBA in Sustainable Business Practices program, which was again ranked first in the nation – for the eighth year running – and sixth, globally in the prestigious *Corporate Knights* Better World MBA rankings.

Sustainability is at the root of operations throughout our urban campus. Our Facilities Management Services continue to install energy- and water-efficient infrastructure, and we produce energy on campus through a co-generation plant. Parkhurst, our catering partner, works to find more sustainable food system solutions in Western Pennsylvania, including sourcing food from local growers and family-owned farms. Our main dining hall composts 100 percent of its pre- and post-consumer materials and donates surplus food to populations in need through our Campus Ministries program.

This year, we developed a new partnership with Clearway Community Energy, which will help bring sustainable energy to nearly a dozen buildings in our downtown Pittsburgh neighborhood.

We remain proud to be a supporting member of the Pittsburgh Higher Education Climate Consortium and a participant in the city's 2030 District objective, which aims for 50 percent reductions in energy and water usage and transportation emissions by 2030.

Within the context of higher education, it is our responsibility to respond, to act and to lead, as we set a course for the next generation of leaders. They will guide the future of this planet where we make our common home.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Warm regards,



Kenneth G. Gormley
President, Duquesne University