



February 16, 2022

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

Duquesne University's commitment to sustainability directly aligns with our Catholic, Spiritan mission to support "the integrity of creation." It reflects a profound respect for and fundamental attitude of reverence toward the natural world and its interdependent realms of plant, animal and human life. We are therefore proud to be a supporting member of the Pittsburgh Higher Education Climate Consortium, an anchor institution in Pittsburgh's Uptown Ecolnnovation District, 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.

We are thrilled that 2021 marked the first successful season for our new on-campus, raised-bed produce garden. Inspired by an undergraduate student thesis regarding regenerative landscaping, this garden is tended by students, faculty, and staff who cultivate seasonal produce for donation to food rescue groups, subsequently increasing biodiversity on campus and reducing storm water overflow.

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. 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 Sustainable MBA housed in our Palumbo-Donahue School of Business. For the last seven years, this MBA program has scored first place in the nation (and seventh, 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.

Universities can lead the way in promoting sustainability writ large. Here at Duquesne University, we will continue to educate global citizens who are empowered to act responsibly and make sustainability a central priority in their lives.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Warm regards,

Kenneth G. Gormley
President, Duquesne University