



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 29, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

Duquesne University's Spiritan Catholic values inspire us to align our mission with the tenets of sustainability. The work we do is informed by our mission, which conveys our commitment to serving God through ethical and ecumenical service to the community, the nation, and the world.

Our campus-wide commitment to sustainability is evidenced by numerous initiatives, including the work of our 98-member University Sustainability Committee, which fosters multidisciplinary engagement among students, faculty and staff from across the university. The committee oversees and maintains campus produce and pollinator gardens and, this past summer, harvested more than 100 lbs. of produce that was donated to on- and off-campus food pantries and to Jubilee Kitchen, which serves individuals who are living in poverty or dealing with issues of food insecurity. The group is currently finalizing construction of hydroponic towers for use in indoor growing, to further enhance production capabilities. During the past year, sustainability committee members co-taught the course "Climate Change, Resilience, and Sustainability" and co-sponsored the event "A Moral Response to Air Pollution: A Dialogue with U.S. Rep. Summer Lee," open to the general public and held on Duquesne's campus. The committee continues to develop important community partnerships, through which, most recently, they have:

- Planted 500 blueberry bushes for distribution across the city, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Blueberry Project and Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light;
- Supported honors fellowship work to promote gardening within local immigrant and refugee communities, through Grow Pittsburgh; and
- Participated in "Bike to Campus Week 2023," in conjunction with Bike PGH.

Academically, nowhere is our dedication to sustainability more evident than in our School of Science and Engineering, which now offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies, in addition to a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science; minors in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies; a Master of Science in Environmental

Science and Management; and post-graduate certificates in Environmental Science and Environmental Management. In our School of Business, our MBA in Sustainable Business Practices was once again ranked number one in the United States (for the ninth year) and second, 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, produce energy on campus through a co-generation plant, and purchase only renewable energy. This past year we installed a Totemic Solutions food dehydration system in one of our buildings, to turn food scraps into compost. In addition, Duquesne University's dining options compost their food waste, regularly audit student food waste, and prioritize local growers and farms. Several of our newest campus buildings have achieved LEED certification—at both Gold and Silver levels.

We are 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. And, for the second year in a row, Duquesne University received the annual Tree Campus Higher Education recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Today, more than ever, we recognize and respect our global interconnectedness. By providing expertise, collaboration, and leadership, we are committed to playing a vital role in guiding our planet to a healthy future. Thank you for considering our submission.

Warm regards,



Kenneth G. Gormley  
President