February 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter shall serve as affirmation that the Iowa Waste Reduction Center' STAR4Defense (STAR4D) program, at the University of Northern Iowa, meets the criteria necessary for an Innovation Credit for the AASHE STARS Assessment.

As the Director of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center, I have had the privilege of participating in the development and growth of this program. Over the past years, I have witnessed the extraordinary benefits of this program and the opportunities that it has created both locally and nationally.

STAR4D's latest achievement integrates virtual reality technology into the training program to allow spray technicians a means of practicing proper spray techniques repeatedly before spraying actual coatings, without generating any hazardous wastes or emissions.

Associated with the STAR4D program, a number of innovative processes and technologies have been implemented that have yielded extraordinary outcomes. The recent development of the VirtualPaint software provides instantaneous feedback, determining the spray pattern distribution, film thickness, transfer efficiency, and overspray in real time. The computer and tracking system communicate to a projector, which displays the VirtualPaint canvas onto a portable rear projection screen. As a result of this leap in technology, there has been a complete elimination of hazardous air emissions and waste for this portion of the training.

These trainings have been offered to military personnel from most states and are now available at nine satellite military bases across the country. Environmental benefits and savings have been realized by adding the VirtualPaint to training. As an example the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) was able to reduce paint consumption by 50 percent while cutting hazardous waste by 75 percent and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) emissions by 80 percent.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any portion of the STAR4D program further. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John L. Konefes
Director
Iowa Waste Reduction Center
University of Northern Iowa