



**RCE**  
REGIONAL CENTRE  
OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
**SASKATCHEWAN**



[www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca)

January 15, 2013

AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System  
213 1/2 N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY, USA 40507

**Re. Letter of Endorsement for the *Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI)*  
at the University of Saskatchewan (Canada)**

Dear AASHE Colleagues:

It gives us great pleasure (and pride!) to see the emergence and approval of the *Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI)* at the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) and several of those directly involved in establishing SERI from the U of S Faculty of Education have been actively involved with the establishment of the *Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Saskatchewan (RCE Saskatchewan)*, officially acknowledged by the United Nations University (UNU) in January, 2007. During this six year association with key individuals from the University of Saskatchewan now involved with the successful establishment and launch of SERI, we have worked closely to offer regional, national and international events focused on regional sustainable development opportunities. The cooperation and support of the U of S for RCE Saskatchewan has been essential to the success of these initiatives and bodes well for the future success of the SERI whose research scope on sustainability education is unprecedented in our region. Further details of our joint activities and events over the past several years can be found at our RCE Saskatchewan website ([www.saskrce.ca](http://www.saskrce.ca)).

The establishment of this institute will now give members of RCE Saskatchewan direct access to new, important and innovative regional ESD research. This will be shared not only with other schools and Higher Education partners in our region, but also RCE Saskatchewan's global collaboration with over 100 RCE's that have been designated by the UNU to advance the U.N. *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD; 2005-2014)*. This institute will help connect and promote ESD research regionally, nationally, and internationally specifically within the areas of formal, non-formal, and informal education. SERI's research focus on: place, environment and sustainability, social justice, globalization, and other critical issues in sustainability will further support the many ESD projects operating within the RCE Saskatchewan region (see "ESD Project Survey MAP" at <http://www.saskrce.ca/maps/sask-esd-projects>).

We are pleased to endorse the further developments of SERI's research and course development to provide unique educational opportunities and experiences for our partners, while also enhancing the research capacity for the Global RCE network supported by the UNU's Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) ([www.ias.unu.edu/efsd](http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd)). SERI is a highly meritorious candidate for a STARS Innovation Credit.

Sincerely,

Lyle A. Benko and Dr. Roger Petry, Co-Coordiators  
RCE Saskatchewan

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