



PACIFIC
LUTHERAN
UNIVERSITY

Vice President for Student Life 253-535-7191 PHONE
and Dean of Students 253-535-7137 FAX
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003 slif@plu.edu E-MAIL

*Educating for Lives of
Thoughtful Inquiry, Service,
Leadership and Care*

January 18, 2013

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

In January 2012, Pacific Lutheran University completed, and the Board of Regents adopted, its third long-range planning document, *PLU 2020: Affirming Our Commitments, Shaping Our Future*, and is in the process of developing strategic plans to advance the 25 recommendations outlined in the long-range plan.

One of the *PLU 2020* recommendations builds on the university's commitment to living as a just community. This derives from our foundational commitment articulated in the university mission to the interconnectedness of care for people, their communities and the earth. In addition, there is a *PLU 2020* recommendation to further the Lutheran notion of vocational call to live one's life with meaning and purpose to the betterment of the world. Our goal is to assist all students in developing an understanding of and commitment to both a career and life plan that include a commitment to the welfare of others. PLU is dedicated to nurturing in students a commitment to justice in all of the many communities in which they work and live. Our dedication to sustainability includes the broad topics of "privilege, oppression, hunger, poverty, civil rights, gender equity and legal rights" and these are evident in curricular and co-curricular topics designed to engage all students.

It is the innovative connections between our ten years of work with students and faculty (with the help of a Lilly Grant) to assist students, faculty and staff to wrestle with complex and interconnected "big enough questions." These connections provide fertile ground for students to wrestle with the big enough questions of diversity, justice and sustainability. We assist them to consider the topics as interrelated and of importance to all PLU students as they grapple with what they will do with their "one wild and precious life."


This innovative approach of collaborative work focusing on issues of diversity, justice and sustainability truly reaches across academic departments and between numerous offices. The confluence of interests and commitments assists students in learning about diversity, justice and sustainability both in the classroom and in co-curricular programs.

Further, this innovative alliance of interested campus partners set us up well for the work ahead, in terms of broadening and deepening our focus on:

“...three key components: care for people, care for the planet, and prosperity, both now and in the future. These are values that emphasize the inseparable interrelationships between environmental, economic, and ethical principles and goals that call on all individuals and communities to ensure that our present way of life does not degrade that of future generations, but leaves the world a better place for all.” *PLU 2020: Affirming Our Commitments, Shaping Our Future*

It is this innovative collaboration that is worthy of consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura F. Majovski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Laura F. Majovski, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

LFM/beb