



SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106-4060
<http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/>

January 25, 2012

To: Whom it May Concern

Re: The LabRATS Innovation Credit for UCSB's Submittal to the STARS Rating System

Laboratory buildings can use five to ten times the energy per square foot that office buildings do. Whereas some of this energy use is due to the unique requirements of researchers, much of it can be reduced through better optimization of laboratory equipment and space, improved laboratory management, and innovative research practices.

UC Santa Barbara has demonstrated the potential for energy efficiency initiatives within the laboratory setting and a much broader set of sustainable laboratory initiatives including recycling, procurement, water efficiency, communication, and more since 2006, with new efforts being implemented each year. Many campuses, throughout the nation and internationally, have replicated our best practices and/or been motivated to launch a green labs program after learning about UCSB's success in this area.

In September 2009, the Institute for Energy Efficiency began their support of a postdoctoral scholar position dedicated to addressing the energy-usage profile of energy intensive laboratory buildings at UCSB. During the two years of the postdoctoral project, the suite of programs LabRATS offers has doubled, extending efforts into the curriculum through an introduction to laboratory buildings course module/guest lecture presentation, developing stronger ties with Facilities Management and other key campus players in laboratory operations, and further publicizing UCSB's accomplishments to other universities and the laboratory efficiency community nationally and abroad.

As Co-founder of the LabRATS Program at UC Santa Barbara, Advisor to the LabRATS Program for many years, and Sustainability Coordinator for UC Santa Barbara, I am confident in the value of this program. Please refer to our annual report at <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/labrats/> for details on our measurable accomplishments in laboratory sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

Katie Maynard

Sustainability Coordinator

Co-founder of LabRATS (2006)

UCSB Department of Geography