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March 4, 2020

**STARS Steering Committee Association for the Advancement of Sustainability  
in Higher Education (AASHE)  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103**

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to endorse San Jose State University's 2020 STARS report submitted for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The report reflects the progress and accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students in the advancement of sustainability at San Jose State University (SJSU).

The STARS assessment provides a framework for SJSU's on-going efforts to strengthen our sustainability achievements. In 2016, we earned a Gold STARS certification and we are eager to obtain STARS recertification in 2020.

This report was prepared through collaborative efforts of the entire campus community, with active participation from students, faculty and staff. I am especially grateful to the many staff members and students that helped gather, analyze and compile this data. It is a laborious process, but one that helps the campus continue our sustainability efforts.

Sustainability remains one of the big issues of our time. San Jose State continues to be an innovative leader in this area, particularly in our buildings and facilities, but also in our academic programs and co-curricular initiatives led by our Division of Student Affairs.

Our efforts are centered around a variety of environmental and sustainability issues that we hope will make us one of the "greenest" and most sustainable campuses in America. To do this successfully, however, will require an interdisciplinary approach and a great deal of focus and commitment.

At SJSU, we are striving toward a future whereby all of our students graduate with a firm understanding of what it means to be sustainable and to gain an appreciation of how their personal actions and the choices they make can have either a positive or negative impact on our environment. In addition, we are working to help our faculty members to incorporate sustainability features into their curricula.

Many of the answers to those question can be found in our STARS report, which highlights the strides our campus has made in the areas of academics, campus and public engagement, facilities, transportation, waste management, and energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

I am delighted to be leading a campus so dedicated to making this university one of the most environmentally sound in America. We are committed to staying focused, making smart decisions about our natural resources, and learning about vital environmental issues as we strive to ensure that everyone who passes through our gates leaves with a commitment to making good personal decisions about the way we treat the Earth.

If we hold true to these values, we know we will be doing our part to enhance the health of our shared planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary A. Papazian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary A. Papazian, Ph.D.

President