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May 13, 2016

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

Subject: San José State University's STARS Submission

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to endorse San José State University's 2016 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 José State University (SJSU).

The STARS assessment provides a framework for SJSU's on-going efforts to strengthen our sustainability achievements. In 2011, we earned a Silver STARS certification and we are eager to obtain STARS recertification in 2016. 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.

As documented in our STARS report, SJSU is committed to developing and implementing educational, facility and community outreach programs that are aimed at reducing our environmental impact. Whether through our ongoing research on the world's oceans at Moss Landing Marine Labs, improving efficiency and safety in the transportation sector through partnerships with NASA and the Mineta Transportation Institute, our faculty and student research will have long lasting impact on future generations.

Facilities improvements that include converting existing systems, such as irrigation and HVAC, to use recycled water and replacing sod with artificial turf at Spartan Stadium save nearly a million gallons of water annually. Converting to compostable cutlery, cups and bowls, purchasing to locally-sourced foods and adhering to a 100% Styrofoam free policy in Spartan Dining services not only reduces waste, but educates students on the importance of sustainable food systems. Innovation programs such as the NSF funded Green Ninjas educational program that teaches k-12 students about sustainability through digital media and the Spartan Superhighway project, where multidisciplinary teams of students are working on an electric, alternative transportation network, impact not only our students, but also have serve our surrounding community and beyond.

I enthusiastically join my SJSU colleagues in expressing my support and commitment. Thank you for providing the opportunity for our campus to evaluate and measure our sustainability performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan W. Martin". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Susan W. Martin, Ph.D.
Interim President