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The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To the Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

I am very pleased to provide this letter of affirmation for the University of Arizona's STARS submission. The information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and to those university staff who compiled it.

The University of Arizona is a proud member of AASHE, and is committed to the vision of human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations that AASHE espouses. As a comprehensive and modern super-land grant university, we take great pride in the wide array of UA programs that fit under this broad vision, and we are committed to advancing these efforts in the years to come.

The University of Arizona has strengths in sustainability around the core mission of education, research, and community impact, and this second of our STARS submissions provides evidence of substantial continued growth and development of the UA's overall sustainability efforts in several areas:

- In academic curriculum, the University has continued to excel in educational opportunities for students through its large and wide diversity of courses addressing the nexus of environmental health, social justice, and economic vitality throughout society. With over 1600 undergraduate and graduate courses offered every two years that explore the intersectionality of large-scale environmental, social, and economic challenges, sustainability is infused throughout UA's curricula and academic culture.
- In research, the UA's portfolio of environmental and social justice research is among the best in the world, especially addressing the challenges of arid regions, borderlands, international development, renewable energy, and more. For example, UA just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ownership and operation of Biosphere 2, the world's largest controlled environment research facility for earth systems sciences, and home to experiments such as the Landscape Evolution Observatory – which are only possible in a research facility of this scale.
- In campus operations, the groundbreaking LEED Platinum ENR2 building and historically sensitive LEED Silver renovation of Old Main are the latest in a long line of building projects with sustainability at the core. The UA has reduced campus energy use

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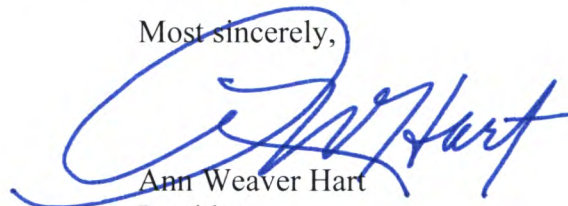
by 38% and water use by 30% per square foot over the past decade, saving over \$2 million in operating costs since 2012. In transportation, 65% of students and 39% of staff use alternative modes of transportation to access campus, radically reducing the need to construct new on-campus parking over the past decade.

- Finally, in campus innovation and leadership, students are often leading the way in sustainability on campus. Over the last seven years, students have allocated \$2.8 million through 112 annual grants and 91 mini grants toward UA sustainability initiatives, enabling development of the award-winning Compost Cats program, athletics zero waste efforts, Community and School Gardens Program, and many more.

The examples I have shared are only a few of the UA's many accomplishments of which we are very proud in these and the other areas of the STARS system. As an institution the UA is committed to continuing and accelerating these advances. Every day, we endeavor to find new ways to engage students and faculty in developing the solutions for sustainability on campus and for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona and beyond.

Thank you for offering this robust platform for the University of Arizona and the entire higher education community to report and communicate our collective efforts in working to address the grand challenges of today and tomorrow. Sustainability is central to the mission of the University of Arizona, and we are proud of our efforts and progress and excited about continuing to increase our capacity to address these challenges for many years to come.

Most sincerely,



Ann Weaver Hart  
President

AWH/blc