**Letter of Affirmation for Agnes Scott College by Sasaki**

**For the AASHE Stars report, Innovation Credit for Exemplary Performance**

Dear STARS Staff,

We are writing in support of the Agnes Scott College STARS report request for an Innovation Credit for integrating sustainability into the campus Master Plan process.

In recent years, Sasaki has worked with many colleges and universities to address sustainability in Master Planning. Agnes Scott has been exemplary in the way they integrated sustainability into the planning process far beyond typical high-level principles and goals--with targeted Sustainability Guidelines generated collaboratively with the College Sustainability Director and Facilities Director to bolster their visionary commitments.

Sustainability Guidelines for buildings, landscapes and education offer a meaningful and substantive bridge from planning to future implementation. Building guidelines call for specific EUIs for individual capital improvement projects based on building typology, verified by the Architecture 2030 database in this climate zone. Landscape guidelines specify irrigation from non-potable and recycled water sources. And education guidelines call for explanatory signage and a website that dashboards energy use.

This deeply layered approach to sustainability is woven throughout the Master Plan, and found expression in several innovative features that have been unique in our planning experience:

1. An interpretive landscape trail for walking and cycling, looping throughout the campus and linking Agnes Scott College to downtown Decatur, with signage of sustainability features of the buildings, landscapes and green infrastructure.
2. Biohabitat protection and restoration including coordination with the goals biodiversity programs Bee Campus USA and Tree Campus USA, as well as designation as a Morton Arboretum – Level 2.  Tree succession planning was also included.
3. Capital improvement projects prioritize repurposing existing structures to reduce embodied carbon, and certification of new buildings for LEED, WELL, Living Building, or Net Zero by ILFI.

But most significant of all is Agnes Scott’s commitment to seek every opportunity to transform the campus into a teaching tool, not only to demonstrate environmental technologies in the built and natural environment, but to help model and encourage sustainable behavior on the part of students, faculty and staff.

It was very fulfilling to work on the Master Plan with Agnes Scott, and we are happy to recommend them for the STARS Innovation Credit in recognition of this effort.



Caitlyn Clauson, Principal-in-Charge Mary Anne Ocampo, Principal

Sasaki Sasaki

*Consultant for the Agnes Scott College Comprehensive Campus Master Plan 2019*