

July 5, 2017

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

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Portland Community College's (PCC) submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Since 2006, PCC has held a leadership role in higher education sustainability through our commitment to climate action and by exemplifying sustainable practices in operations, education and engagement.

Much progress has been made since our last STARS submission in 2013. PCC is proud to highlight such efforts in our updated submission, some of which include:

- Promoting sustainable buildings inside and out, with a commitment to LEED Silver for new construction and maintaining our buildings with innovative green cleaning practices like aqueous ozone, replacing the use of 170 gallons of general cleaner annually.
- Addressing food insecurity as part of our closed loop system at the PCC Rock Creek Campus, where food waste is turned into compost on campus to nourish the learning garden at which students can volunteer for produce or utilize SNAP benefits at the garden's farm stand.
- Participating as a founding member of the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network, a UNU-IAS Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, which encourages collaborative educational partnerships for a sustainable future.

PCC is in the process of developing its first Sustainability Plan, which will reaffirm our commitment as we continue to advance our efforts in sustainability. We look forward to our continued collaboration with AASHE and participation in STARS.

Regards,



Mark Mitsui, College President  
Portland Community College