



March 4, 2016

Dear STARS Review Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the University of California Santa Cruz's submission of the Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Impacts of Climate Impacts (ISEECI) as a STARS Innovation Credit.

ISEECI's mission is to assess ecosystem-wide impacts of climate across the UC Natural Reserve System, a network of protected natural areas throughout California. Its 39 sites include more than 756,000 acres, making it the largest university-administered reserve system in the world. Most major state ecosystems are represented, from coastal tidepools to inland deserts, and lush wetlands to Sierra Nevada forests. The reserves also serve as a gateway to more than a million acres of public lands.

ISEECI leverages the UC Natural Reserve System as a biologically and geographically diverse laboratory to study effects of climate change on California ecosystems, with major implications for the state's citizens. The Institute brings together 60 faculty from across the ten-campus UC system and utilizes the UC Natural Reserve System as a living laboratory where faculty and graduate students from every UC campus are involved in all aspects of the research, allowing a coordinated statewide approach for discovering and understanding ecosystem- and state-wide responses to climate change.

This unique institute that integrates and synthesizes cross disciplinary research across the UC Natural Reserve System to address large scale ecological and climate change research questions is unprecedented, and this innovative approach is sure to result in groundbreaking research.

ISEECI fully meets the criteria for an innovation credit with the AASHE-STARS program. Please refer to the [ISEECI's website](#) for details on the Institute's progress to date.

Sincerely,

