

September 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Saint Louis University is proud of its commitment to become a Charter Participant in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Our investment in the resources to complete STARS represents a long term commitment to sustainability for the University.

STARS has played an important role in catalyzing sustainability related innovation on our campus, and within the greater St. Louis region. Perhaps the most important innovation for SLU was the launch of the Center for Sustainability and a new, cross disciplinary Master of Sustainability degree program. Funding for the Center and Masters was provided through a \$5 million capitalizing grant from Alberici Enterprises, a privately held firm based in St. Louis with operations across the globe.

The Center leveraged the advantages accompanying a first mover in the market to become the defacto "hub" for all sustainability related initiatives at Saint Louis University and the region. The status helped us launch even more innovative programs, including:

- The Alberici Fund for Innovation: A \$1 million commitment over five years to seed cross/interdisciplinary research focused on creating solutions to the urgent sustainability issues facing society.
- The ICLEI STAR Beta Community grant: A research partnership with the City of St. Louis to complete a baseline assessment of the city's current enablers and barriers to sustainable development. The City of St. Louis was one of only 10 cities nationally to be chosen to test the new software tracking tool.
- The St. Louis Green Confluence: A regional summit bringing together a cross sector coalition of sustainability stakeholders to agree upon new programs that will make our region the "Gateway to Green". Over 1,000 people attended the 2-day summit.
- Greenovation Place: A trade show for sustainability thought leaders to demonstrate their products and services to existing and potential customers in the region.
- Higher Ed Sustainability Consortium: The creation of a new organization of 19 area institutions of higher education. The HESC shares best practices among its members and collaborates on major initiatives like "Recyclemania".

Saint Louis University can provide the details of these programs and many more that were accomplished in the past year, many facilitated by becoming a Charter Participant with AASHE in the STARS tool. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally for more information. Thank you for the opportunity to showcase our innovation.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Keane, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Center for Sustainability

