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• October 4, 2011

STARS IN 4-Letter of Affirmation

- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213½ N. Limestone
- Lexington, KY 40507



Re: Saint Louis University STARS Innovation Credits

The St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA), the chamber of commerce and economic development organization for the St. Louis metropolitan region commends St. Louis University and their Center for Sustainability for advancing sustainability and the green economy for the St. Louis region. Their efforts on the St. Louis Green Business Challenge and the Green Confluence deserve the Innovation Credits on their STARS application.

In January 2010, Saint Louis University's Center for Sustainability joined the inaugural class of the RCGA's St. Louis Green Business Challenge, and they have continued for a second year. The Challenge encourages businesses, education institutions, organizations and governments to adopt sustainable business practices that improve energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality, reduce waste and water consumption and expand clean transportation options. The Challenge teams meet monthly to share best practices, and the Center for Sustainability actively participated in the meetings. Saint Louis University was presented with an 2010 Award of Achievement for their achievements in implementing sustainable business practices throughout the campus.

As an initiative of the RCGA's St. Louis Climate Prosperity Project, the Center partnered with the RCGA and area Workforce Investment Boards on the Green Labor Market Information (LMI) Project, a federal grant to align education institutions and job training providers with employers in green industries and to create career pathways for green jobs. The Green LMI concluded in January 2011 with the St. Louis Green Confluence, hosted by Saint Louis University. The Green Confluence brought St. Louis area employers, educators, public policy makers and citizens together to explore the future of the region's green economy. The two-day event, attended by 750 people, featured a green economy symposium with expert speakers, a green career opportunity showcase with employers, education workshops and the unveiling of a new regional website, stlouisgreenjobs.com.

The RCGA highly values the relationship with St. Louis University's Center for Sustainability and looks forward to future partnerships to advance the St. Louis regional green economy.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Schneider  
Senior Director – Energy and Environment

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