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June 18, 2012

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507
USA

RE: The Sheridan Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning's STARS submission

It is my sincere pleasure to present our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System Report on behalf of the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. It represents a comprehensive and institution-wide effort on the part of this College to assess and report on our sustainability achievements. I can confirm that our answers are accurate and have been obtained honestly.

Our journey, which has been carefully connected to a deeply rooted culture of *creativity* and *innovation* was formally launched in 2010 with a groundbreaking presentation by Dr. Karl Henrik Robert of The Natural Step on the role of applied academic institutions in moving toward achieving greater levels of sustainability in society. Our strategic foundations have been anchored by an institutional sustainability policy (which I attach), investment in an Office for Sustainability mandated to redefine 'operational systems', reduce Sheridan's environmental footprint, harness efficiencies through Energy and Waste initiatives and translate this learning to create strategic value through curriculum development, student learning opportunities, research and new community and industry partnerships for the College.

This 'living laboratory' concept plays a unique role in integrating teaching & learning, research and business operations in helping address some of the most critical issues of facing communities and industry over the next decade. In 2012-2013, Sheridan College will continue to drive innovation and student learning through key initiatives which include Sheridan's Integrated Energy Master Plan, a 20 year plan which has begun re-envisioning Sheridan's Energy future and set aggressive consumption (50%) and greenhouse gas reductions (60%). In 2012, this initiative will have involved over 100 faculty, staff, students and outside partners in baseline data gathering, greenhouse gas reporting, re-envisioning our supply side energy strategies and climate action planning. Our Zero-Waste initiatives continue to include students, faculty, staff, non-profit and community involvement to fuel innovation.

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Recognized for its expertise in digital media and communications, performing arts, visual arts and a number one world ranking for its Animation, Gaming and Design programs (2012), Sheridan College continues to explore the relationships between sustainability, design and communications through its Sustainable Design Research Laboratory which engages in experimental and applied design research to inform curriculum.

In 2011-2012, Sheridan launched its first student focused sustainability challenge in called the President's Creative Challenge for Sustainability. Five winning student teams were chosen and awarded funding to further develop and implement campus sustainability projects for the College.

This year, Sheridan College will become the first Ontario College and sixteenth institution in Canada to report on sustainability through AASHE. We are exceptionally proud of our leadership on sustainability and share a strong commitment and gratitude to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). We look forward to working with the STARS steering committee to help integrate Canadian content and metrics in future revisions and encourage the continued support of AASHE across Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Zabudsky', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Zabudsky, Ph.D.
President & CEO