

January 15, 2016

Re: University at Albany STARS Submission

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team,

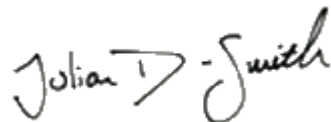
This letter is to affirm the innovative quality of the University at Albany's efforts to conduct a Peer Review of their STARS 2.0 Submission. As former the Chair of the STARS Steering Committee and one of three original co-creators of STARS, I feel sufficiently qualified and knowledgeable to declare that UAlbany's use of peer reviewers on its STARS submission meets the requirements stated in the credit as follows:

- "The innovation describes a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policies or practice"
- I am not aware of many campuses that have engaged peer reviewers to provide a comprehensive review of their STARS submission
- "This innovation (program, policy, or outcome) is not already covered by an existing STARS credit or greatly exceeds the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit"
- External verification is not required in STARS and the review provided by industry colleagues exceeds the standard review that AASHE performs on all submissions
- "The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome has occurred within the past three years" as the peer review was conducted over the last month
- "The institution has not previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome"

Moreover, I have reviewed the analysis compiled by the peer reviewers and found it to be thorough and fair. It has helped the University at Albany improve its report and have confidence in the thoroughness, rigor, clarity and quality of their STARS submission.

Given all of the above, I affirm that the University at Albany's claim of an innovation credit for this activity is consistent with the necessarily requirements. I hope to see more institutions pursuing this kind of review in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Dautremont-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'S'.

Julian Dautremont-Smith

