

STARS Review Committee AASHE

November 5, 2018

Dear Review Committee,

I am writing in strong support of UAlbany's request to be considered for an innovation credit on their 2018 STARS report submission. The university served as the host for the Power Dialog in the spring of 2016 and was a key partner in the planning and implementation of the statewide event in New York.

The Power Dialog, a national project conceived by the Bard Center for Environmental Policy, was designed to raise awareness about the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, and to create opportunities for conversations between students and government leaders regarding its implementation at the state level. During April of 2016, events were held in 20 states.

The University at Albany held a variety of activities associated with this event including: an evening seminar at Albany Law School, a day-long series of events at UAlbany's uptown campus which involved a poster session of student work, six student-run workshops and an evening discussion with special guests Richard Kauffman, Chair of Energy and Finance for New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Jared Snyder, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Air Resources, Climate Change and Energy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Hundreds of students from throughout New York participated in the event including those from Syracuse University, Colgate University, Union College, Skidmore College, Bard, SUNY Plattsburgh, RPI, Clarkson University, Iona College, and the Sage Colleges. Without the leadership from UAlbany, statewide engagement in the project would never have reached this level.

UAlbany's contribution was documented in a peer-reviewed paper (including co-author Professor Mary Ellen Malia) entitled "The Challenge of Coordinated Civic Climate Change Education" in the February 2018 edition of the *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*.

I strongly support UAlbany's request to receive an innovation credit for the leadership role they played in enabling the NYS Power Dialog.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eban Goodstein
Director