



Office of Research &  
Economic Development June 25, 2012

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Louisiana State University's STARS documentation for an innovation credit. When the Deepwater Horizon well exploded out in the Gulf – more than 170 miles away from Baton Rouge – LSU faculty from all research fields, and every department and college pulled together to find a way to respond to the situation. Our faculty understood it was their duty – and honor – as employees of a public institution and citizens of Louisiana to serve their state by assessing the situation, remediating the oil, determining the impact and finding ways to make sure a disaster of this magnitude might be prevented in the future.

LSU researchers from the School of Coast & Environment, College of Science, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine use their expertise to become integral to the response efforts.

The economy of Louisiana's coastal region is heavily dependent of oil and seafood industries. LSU's unique assets and expertise fostered an unprecedented research and outreach response to the disaster and therefore qualifies as an Innovational Credit in addressing a sustainability challenge.

This response effort is chronicled in a publication titled *Responding to the Flow*, [http://issuu.com/lsuored/docs/responding\\_to\\_the\\_flow\\_lsu](http://issuu.com/lsuored/docs/responding_to_the_flow_lsu). It highlights coordinated efforts to share information, the science behind the spill and lessons learned that are applicable to other universities as well.

Sincerely,

Kalliat T. Valsaraj  
Associate Vice Chancellor