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DATE: February 10, 2016

TO: AASHE STARS

FROM: Amanda Lineberry, CBL Fellow, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement

RE: Environmental Justice Think Tank

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to endorse the Environmental Justice Think Tank for AASHE STARS innovation credit.

The Bonner Center for Civic Engagement transforms student learning, deepens faculty engagement, and partners with community organizations for social change. We do this by connecting UR and Richmond communities in collaborative and sustained partnerships. Through courses, research projects, volunteerism, fellowships, discussion series, and reflection we bring students, faculty, staff and community partners together to explore educationally meaningful approaches to community-identified needs.

The Environmental Justice Think Tank is facilitated by staff in the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, but it is a dynamic, collaborative effort to expand partnerships with sustainability-related community partners. It includes staff and faculty from the Office of Sustainability, the Biology Department, the Geography and the Environment Department, the Environmental Studies Department, and the Envision the James collaborative, as well as a student representative.

The Think Tank created an environment-focused website to capture and promote the many modes through which students and faculty could engage with these community partners, highlighting four areas that have substantial momentum on our campus and in Greater Richmond, including climate change, food access, the James River (which runs right behind our campus), and environmental justice across race and class differences. These websites, currently in their draft form, will serve as a resource and launching point for greater engagement and partnership for both faculty, staff, and students.

References: <http://qaengage2.richmond.edu/resources/environment/index.html>
<http://qaengage2.richmond.edu/resources/environment/climate.html>
<http://qaengage2.richmond.edu/resources/environment/food.html>
<http://qaengage2.richmond.edu/resources/environment/river.html>
<http://qaengage2.richmond.edu/resources/environment/justice.html>