

STARS Program
AASHE
1401 Walnut Street, #102
Philadelphia, PA 19103



To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to submit this letter of affirmation that the information presented for STARS Innovation Credit IN-D is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Addressing issues of air and water pollution, storm surges, and extreme weather events in urban environments requires interdisciplinary technical skills, knowledge, and effective communication.

Biology Professor Pamela Templer, Earth and Environment Professor Lucy Hutyra, and Public Health Professor Jonathan Levy were awarded a \$3 million, five-year National Science Foundation Research Trainee-ship grant to prepare a new generation of interdisciplinary scientists to tackle urgent environmental problems through what is hoped will be a model graduate program for other universities. The training model's three components include interdisciplinary coursework in Biogeoscience, Environmental Health, and Statistics, workshops and partnerships with city governments, NGOs and private entities, and communication and outreach to communities. The objectives of this program are to contribute to a diverse and globally competitive STEM workforce, dissemination of a new training model, communication of research results to policy-makers at multiple levels of decision-making.

As part of the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program, this project will encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, potentially transformative approaches to STEM graduate education training by training 60 Ph.D. students, including 20 NRT-funded trainees, from the Ph.D. Program in Biogeoscience, and the Departments of Environmental Health, and Mathematics and Statistics. This training will equip participants with the knowledge to address foundational questions about the physical and natural environment and to reduce the impacts of the human activities on both ecosystem function and human health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Templer".

Pamela Templer, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Biology
Director, Ph.D. Program in Biogeoscience
Director, BU URBAN Program
Boston University