



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York
UB Sustainability

November 14, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The University at Buffalo, like many other institutions of higher education has engaged in AASHE STARS. However, the process we undertook to determine the state of our sustainability was truly innovative in terms of student involvement.

During the Spring 2012 semester, the university piloted out an innovative approach to gathering the massive amount of data generated by our 12 schools and over 40,000 people that are on our campuses daily. We offered a learning laboratory course for eight select students who not only learned firsthand about sustainability at a public higher education institution, but also provided key assistance in conducting the data collection and analysis for the university's submission.

Student participation, representing majors as diverse as Philosophy and Chemical Engineering, framed the entire process and provided key assistance to approximately one hundred university personnel who participated in the year long process. These students became experts in the concepts of curriculum, research, engagement and operations that are needed to complete STARS. Fifty percent of the students went on to complete sustainability related internships during the summer and one was hired as the Director of the Environmental Department of the UB Student Association.

I affirm this initiatives' innovative nature as outlined in the STARS 1.1 Technical Manual as it worked to truly bridge the gap between student engagement, administrative leadership and faculty involvement in the way we measure sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan A. McPherson', written over a horizontal line.

Ryan McPherson
Chief Sustainability Officer