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Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff,

This letter serves as affirmation that the Northwestern University Solar Car Team (NUsolar), a completely undergraduate student-run organization celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, qualifies Northwestern University for AASHE STARS innovation credit.

The Northwestern Solar Car Team designs, builds, and races solar-powered vehicles, and it is currently building its seventh solar car, codename SC7, to compete in the American Solar Challenge and Formula Sun Grand Prix. NUsolar's goals are to enhance the education and career preparation for Northwestern students by providing hands-on project management, design, and manufacturing experience in addition to providing an outlet for students to demonstrate their skills and commitment to renewable energy technologies and sustainability.

Innovation takes place in the "market" through the intersection of a number of functional and business processes, and I cannot think of a better project on campus where students are turning classroom sustainability knowledge into innovations. By managing the entire process from concept to fabrication to competition, including fundraising and media outreach, the students learn by doing and inspire the entire campus (and surrounding K-12 communities) to pursue a cleaner tomorrow together.

The popularity and longevity of the NUsolar program is testament to the university's commitment to sustainability and the important role that student-led programs play in fulfilling that commitment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have by email or phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dick T. Co'.

Dick T. Co, Ph.D.