



August 2, 2018

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter of affirmation that the information presented for Lehigh University's STARS Innovation Credit is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. This letter affirms that during the Summer of 2017, and throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, a Lehigh University based team, working in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Program and UN-Sustainable Development in Geneva, Switzerland, developed protocols to enable facilities owned or rented by New York City-based Missions to the United Nations to become more sustainable and efficient. The project began as part of the Mountaintop Experience 2017 summer program and continued throughout the academic year as a Creative Inquiry project. It grew out of the Lehigh University-United Nations Partnership, which focuses on four areas where Lehigh's strengths align with the UN's mission: sustainable development, health, gender equity, and youth empowerment. The overall purpose of this project is to design protocols that will "green" the UN missions and help them align their facilities operations with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in order to move the UN-affiliated facilities toward climate neutrality.

This project was part of Lehigh's Mountaintop initiative, which is a summer experience where Lehigh students, working across all disciplines, are given the freedom to pursue creative and innovative answers to any number of challenges and open-ended questions. The Greening of the UN team included two undergraduate students and was advised by two staff members.

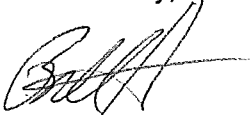
During the summer, the team designed a manual to assist United Nations Missions to green their facilities and operations in New York City. In order to create this manual, the students completed an intensive literature review of peer programs around the world. The literature review contained information from 25 universities, 2 cities, 15 major international companies, and 5 non-profit organizations. They also gathered information from 66 Sustainability UN sources in order to gain an understanding of items necessary for inclusion in inter-governmental environmental reporting. From the literature review, they successfully completed an initial draft of the manual. During the fall and spring semesters, the students tested and refined the manual in preparation for piloting the project with several UN Missions during the fall of 2018. As a capstone, the student team presented their research and manual at the UN Environmental Management Group Conference at the World Bank.

This project is just one example of how Lehigh students and faculty utilize the campus as a living laboratory and how multidisciplinary student research across campus generates potential

solutions that positively impact the institution, surrounding community and via the UN Missions, the world.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Bill Hunter  
Director, Office of Fellowship Advising and UN Programs  
Lehigh University