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Dear AASHE STARS Consideration Committee:

This letter is written as part of the STARS Innovation credit for Bentley University.

As Assistant Director of Programs and Initiatives in the Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center (BSLCE), I have the opportunity to work with top student leaders eager to create sustainable change on Bentley's campus. The BSLCE offers a variety of civic engagement opportunities, run by student leaders, through our innovative student leadership model. The goal of civic engagement efforts is to increase co-curricular social innovation, civic responsibility, and social justice programming in order to help move students toward Bentley's goal "to educate creative, ethical, and socially responsible organizational leaders.

Started by Bentley students in 2014, BUIILD (Bentley Unites to Improve International Livelihood and Development) is an annual, week-long initiative to raise awareness about global poverty and to raise money to help bring sustainable development to the community of Los Rios, Ecuador. The goal of BUIILD is to provide the Bentley community with the opportunity to learn about global poverty, while raising money toward holistic development needs, such as alternative income, water, health, agriculture, and education to help bring sustainable development to communities overseas.

In its inaugural year, BUIILD raised over \$10,000, enough to build an elementary school in Los Rios. In its second year, students raised over \$3,000 toward bringing a sustainable clean water source to the same community. This year, students will be raising awareness and money to provide programs that promote food security and improved agriculture, such as irrigation projects and school gardens.

At Bentley University, there are few opportunities that bring together the campus for a common goal. Historically, the campus has only come together to fundraise for Relay for Life or in the wake of natural disasters and/or crises. BUIILD is innovative as it has truly brought the campus together to partner with the community of Los Rios, Ecuador. Our students take the reins on this event, planning everything from the awareness campaign to the fundraising. Past awareness campaigns have involved construction of a mock classroom that was set up on campus between academic buildings, a poster campaign depicting the connection between development needs, and bringing world-renowned motivational speakers to campus to educate our community about issues such as diversity, poverty, and lack of education globally. BUIILD has allowed our students to build their skills in marketing, advocacy, and fundraising.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,  
Bria Milbery