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October 11, 2017

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St.
Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

RE: The University of San Diego STARS Submission

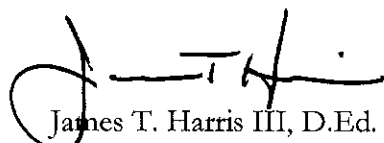
Dear STARS Steering Committee:

We at the University of San Diego are pleased to submit for our second STARS rating. STARS has served as a powerful tool to assist us as we move toward becoming a more sustainable campus, and we have used the credit criteria to help construct our sustainability strategies. Combining STARS strategies with the university's Catholic identity, with its foundation in Catholic social thought and an emphasis on producing students who are global citizens, provides unique opportunities to explore the social, economic, environmental, and moral aspects of sustainability.

The concept of "Care for Our Common Home," put forth by Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical "Laudato si'," expresses many of the concepts of sustainability through the lens of the Catholic faith. "Care for Our Common Home" has been adopted at the University of San Diego as one of the six pathways to achieve our vision to set "the standard for an engaged, contemporary Catholic university where innovative changemakers confront humanity's urgent challenges." USD demonstrates care for all creation through its teaching, scholarship, campus culture and community partnerships.

We are excited and proud to learn that our second assessment, and our first under version 2.1, has resulted in our second Gold rating, and we are pleased that our scores are on an upward trajectory. To the best of our knowledge, the information presented in this evaluation is accurate and up to date. Our Office of Sustainability, led by Director of Sustainability Michael Catanzaro, oversaw the STARS assessment, and data was provided by students, faculty and staff from across the university. Our rating reflects the ongoing commitment of USD to promote and adopt sustainable practices across our campus community. This report not only highlights the areas in which USD succeeds, but it also illuminates the areas we can improve to build the culture of sustainability on our campus. We anticipate continuing to use STARS as our primary sustainability metric and strengthening our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,



James T. Harris III, D.Ed.
President