



## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
INDIANAPOLIS

May 28, 2013

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

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

IUPUI is submitting the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) benchmarking tool, and I confirm that the report as prepared by Colleen McCormick, director of the IUPUI Office of Sustainability, is an accurate representation of IUPUI's sustainability initiatives to date. IUPUI recently renewed its AASHE membership, and Colleen McCormick, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public affairs and public health from IUPUI, was named director of our new Office of Sustainability in September 2011.

As you will see in the attached report, IUPUI's sustainability efforts have taken on characteristics innate to the culture and history of campus. A partnership campus of Indiana University and Purdue University in Indianapolis, the state capital and leading population center, IUPUI is nationally and internationally recognized for community engagement and practice-based learning across disciplines. This tradition stems from more than a century of professional education in the health and life science professions of medicine, dentistry, nursing, etc., that predate the formation of IUPUI in 1969. Owing to this distinctive history, experiential learning, translating research into practice, and community-based partnerships have put their stamp on sustainability efforts as well.

For example, the Student Sustainability Council's "Year of the Bike" series of events dovetailed well with the city of Indianapolis's completion of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indianapolis Cultural Trail, a hiking/biking trail that connects historic neighborhoods and cultural amenities with downtown, part of which runs also through the IUPUI campus.

IUPUI has also been recognized for first-year experiences. Sustainability education and awareness is fostered during Weeks of Welcome, orientation activities for new and returning students, as well as with the IUPUI Sustainability House, a residential learning community for students interested in environmental and social action, education, and advocacy. Our School of Public and Environmental Affairs recently implemented a new major in sustainable management and policy at the bachelor's degree level. Students also engage in service learning projects related to sustainability, which helped IUPUI achieve 2012 Arbor Day Tree Campus USA recognition.

IUPUI looks forward to working with AASHE and fellow institutions to advance sustainability initiatives on our campuses by sharing information about best practices and creative new approaches.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Bantz  
Chancellor

Enclosure

