



IUPUI

**OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR**

November 1, 2019

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

Dear Members of the AASHE Steering Committee:

I am pleased to endorse IUPUI's submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). In that regard, you will find with this letter the IUPUI AASHE STARS report, which has been prepared by leaders in our Office of Sustainability in collaboration with campus partners. This report reflects IUPUI's commitment to sustainability, one of the core values of our institution as identified in our university-wide Bicentennial Strategic Plan.

Since 2011, the IUPUI Office of Sustainability has led the efforts related to encouraging sustainable actions and practices on campus, integrating sustainability into IUPUI curriculum, operations, and engagement programming. Collaborating with units across campus, the work of this office has focused on implementing and validating innovative practices, positioning IUPUI as a leader in urban sustainability.

Since our last STARS report, our campus has taken great strides to continue the advancement of sustainability at IUPUI and in the Indianapolis community more broadly. Most notably, in 2018 and 2019, IUPUI hosted the Indianapolis Sustainability Summit. The first event of its kind in the entire state of Indiana, this event convened over 300 sustainability professionals and advocates from across central Indiana to share success stories, showcase best practices, and network to advance sustainability in Indiana.

As one of the few institutions of higher education in Indiana that offers degrees, minors, and certificates in sustainability, IUPUI takes seriously its role of developing the nation's future sustainability professionals. In summer 2017, IUPUI joined IU Bloomington to launch the Indiana Sustainability Development Program (ISDP), a statewide sustainability workforce development program that provides intensive, hands-on sustainability experience to our students while also demonstrating the value of having a sustainability professional on staff to employers across the state. ISDP, funded by the McKinney Family Foundation, is building Indiana's sustainability workforce capacity while also retaining talent in the Hoosier state.

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Additional highlights of IUPUI's sustainability initiatives include launching the first free seed library at a university in the state; our Bee and Tree Campus USA designations; commitment to LEED-certified new construction; debuting the IUPUI Energy Challenge, a campus-wide competition aimed at reducing energy consumption; receiving the national Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking Campaign - Exemplary Higher Education Sector Parking Award for our successful energy reduction efforts in our parking garages; and catalyzing the creation of a commercial compost hauling route with Butler University thanks to the AASHE Sustainable Campus Competition LIVE! award from Kimberly Clark.

With these accomplishments in mind, I once again offer my strong support for the submission of our AASHE STARS report. At IUPUI, we believe in the power of transformation and are committed to transforming the lives of our students, our community, and the changing world around us by demonstrating leadership in sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nasser", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nasser H. Paydar
Chancellor

cc: Camy Broeker, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Jessica Davis, Director, IUPUI Office of Sustainability