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February 23, 2015

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to affirm that Duke University's submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is an accurate representation of our campus sustainability initiatives.

Duke's commitment to sustainability is part of the fabric and institutional culture of our campus. Our ethos of "knowledge in service to society" informs our aim to equip our graduates to address real-world challenges. Preparing the minds of tomorrow's leaders to understand and tackle complex issues such as climate change, energy security, and limited natural resources is part of Duke's institutional mission.

Since our inaugural STARS Gold rating in 2011, Duke has made great strides in campus sustainability efforts. We have achieved a 21% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a 43% reduction in potable water usage, an 8% decrease in energy usage in campus buildings, and a 37% recycling rate. In the 2013-14 academic year, 39% of Duke graduates earned degrees in programs with sustainability learning outcomes. Striving for a more efficient use of our resources and educating the campus community about its overall impact have had substantial environmental benefit and have resulted in financial savings for the institution.

In 2005, Duke adopted an Environmental Policy that states, "*Duke University seeks to attain and maintain a place of leadership in all that we do. This includes leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability on our campus, in our medical institutions, and in the larger community of which we are a part. We will bring vision, intellect, and high ethical standards to our pursuit of environmental leadership in research and teaching, institutional operations, and our relationship with the community.*" STARS is one way we continue to assess these aspirations, share our best practices with peer institutions, and demonstrate Duke's commitment to addressing the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Brodhead