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January 28, 2011

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213½ North Limestone  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

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. We are proud to be a charter participant in this self-assessment model to help institutions across the country measure their sustainability efforts and track progress. Duke's commitment to sustainability is part of the fabric and institutional culture of our campus. We believe in an ethos of "knowledge in service to society" and equipping 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 the institutional mission of this university.

Over the past decade, the Duke community's interest and passion for sustainability has grown exponentially. We have hundreds of students participating in campus environmental groups and had over six thousand signatories of our campus sustainability pledge. Duke currently has 31 LEED buildings, and staff with particular responsibility for sustainability issues have been integrated into numerous departments on campus, including Dining, Transportation, Facilities, Procurement and the Office of the Executive Vice President. In 2007, I signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which set in motion the development of Duke's first comprehensive Climate Action Plan and our commitment to reach climate neutrality by 2024, the 100th anniversary of James B. Duke's Indenture of Trust.

Duke's participation in STARS will allow us to measure our progress to date in a more effective fashion. While no assessment tool is perfect, the benefits of this rating system include an open development process with input from many different institutions of higher education, a fully transparent methodology, and a comprehensive approach to sustainability. Duke plans to utilize the STARS data not only to publicize our successes externally but to assess where we have room to improve sustainability efforts on campus.

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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.*" Our participation in STARS will help assess our progress toward these aspirations, share best practices with our peer institutions, and serve to demonstrate further Duke's commitment to addressing the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Brodhead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Richard H. Brodhead