



Office of University Sustainability

May 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to affirm The Medinas Aquarius Program is innovative based on the AASHE guidelines (stars.aashe.org) and therefore we share this extraordinary program as an Innovation credit for the 2016 STARS submission by Florida International University.

The Medina Aquarius Program is dedicated to the study and preservation of marine ecosystems worldwide and is enhancing the scope and impact of FIU on research, educational outreach, technology development, and professional training. At the heart of the program is the Aquarius Reef Base. The Aquarius Reef Base located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is a one-of-a-kind educational and research facility that serves multidisciplinary purposes. The Aquarius Reef Base has provided a unique ability to study coral reefs and the ocean, test state-of-the-art undersea technology, train students, astronauts, and Navy divers, and engage the imagination of people across the globe in ocean science, coral reefs, conservation, and underwater technology.

The Aquarius Reef Base includes the Aquarius laboratory, the world's only operating an undersea research laboratory, ocean-observing platform with access to real-time data via the Internet, and a shore-based field station. Scientists have the ability to live and work underwater in two week long missions. Researchers can inspire the next generation of explorers by hosting virtual fieldtrips using technologies such as Skype and Google Hangouts to broadcast live from the underwater facility to classrooms all over the U.S.

For more information click the link [Medina Aquarius Program](#) or feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Caldwell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Connie Caldwell

MPA | LEED GA

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