



Office of University Sustainability

May 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to affirm that the FIU's Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRRP) fits the criteria for a STARS innovation program credit for FIU's 2016 STARS submission. This program is unique and embodies FIU's research and applications leadership at the global level. Focusing in extreme events, this program reflects an institutional interest in development and multi-hazard disaster resilience. The DRRP includes topics such as disaster risk management, vulnerability reduction, preparedness, emergency response, resilience, and "smart" recovery.

The DRRP is designed to advance disaster risk reduction by influencing the drivers of existing risks and their consequences, as well as, helping avoid the creation and accumulation of new risk, and developing capabilities plus mechanisms for building resilience. More recently the DRRP partnered with the United States Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) on the "Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas Program." Through this innovative partnership disaster risk is reduced and assistance improved with pertinent forecasts of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Florida International University lives up to its "World's Ahead" philosophy and proudly works with the international community expanding our ability to think differently, exceed expectations, and create new possibilities. Please accept this enthusiastic affirmation letter highlighting the Disaster Risk Reduction Program's overall innovation measures happening at Florida International University. For more information click the link [Disaster Risk Reduction Program](#) or feel free to contact me directly.

Regards,

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

Connie Caldwell

MPA | LEED GA

Sustainability Program Coordinator

Office of University Sustainability

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