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March 1, 2022

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

Re: Portland State University's STARS 2021 submission

On behalf of Portland State University, I am pleased to submit the results of our ninth STARS assessment. I affirm this report to be an honest and accurate account of sustainability programs and practices on campus.

PSU remains committed to sustainability in every aspect of the institution. This new submission maintains our STARS Gold rating and illustrates our continued progress toward a culture of stewardship, equity, interdisciplinary thinking, and innovative problem solving. We have continued to experience challenges brought on by the global pandemic and extreme weather events highlighting the climate crisis, however PSU's commitment to sustainability and resiliency have helped us navigate this difficult time and strengthened our community.

This year I announced a renewed commitment to resiliency and action with my Climate Change Initiative and the formation of a steering committee to lead this important work. We recognize that it is our responsibility to be leaders in equity-centered climate action as we educate a diverse generation of students who will undoubtedly bear this burden.

We have also made great strides this year in operational sustainability. In partnership with the City of Portland, Portland Community College, and Oregon Health and Sciences University, we opened The Vanport Building. The LEED Gold building was named in honor of the multicultural city that flooded in 1948, displacing more than 18,500 people, including many black families. The building also includes a locally commissioned mural that serves as a permanent tribute to the spirit of Vanport, while acknowledging systemic racism in Portland's past. Additionally, PSU has launched a new equity-centered community design approach as we plan our next capital project, the Vernier Science Center. This approach, using a critical race theory-informed process, centers on the lived experience of BIPOC learners, staff, faculty, and community members and enables a shared leadership structure throughout the visioning and design phases of the project.

On the academic and research front, PSU partnered with the University of Washington and other organizations on a \$5.6M grant establishing the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative to advance efforts to adapt to climate change in frontline communities. Additionally, the Student Sustainability Center successfully launched the Emerging Sustainability Leaders Program, providing a network and resources for students dedicated to sustainability.

PSU takes seriously its motto, Let Knowledge Serve the City, and sustainability is a key part of our contribution. I appreciate the opportunity to share these highlights and look forward to reporting on our continued innovation in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Stephen Percy
President, Portland State University