

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability (AASHE)
213 ½ N. Limestone
Lexington, KY

Re: Letter of Affirmation for STARS Version 1.0 Innovation Credit:
Greening the IMU Eco-Charrette

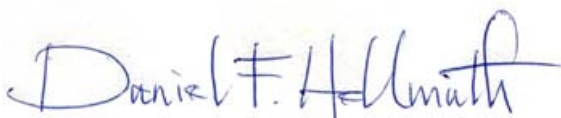
To Whom It May Concern:

In the late fall of 2009, William Brown, Indiana University's Office of Sustainability Director, with his group of sustainability interns initiated the effort to host the Greening of the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU) Eco-Charrette which took place on Friday, December 17, 2010. In addition to Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects, the charrette brought in local experts, faculty, staff, students (from two universities), classes and a representative from the Campus Sector of the USGBC.

The IMU is a 500,000 square foot facility with multiple uses in the heart of Bloomington's university campus and receives over 14,000 visitors per day. This facility was chosen as the eco-charrette focus for its monumental and iconic, and yet familiar status in the university community. The eco-charrette was made possible through a student-initiated grant from the local utility company, Duke Energy. Due to high traffic, familiarity, and accessibility, the IMU makes a perfect candidate to spearhead the greening of Indiana University's existing building stock.

The process determined that the building could be certified at the basic level with low- or no-cost initiatives with continual improvements leading to a progressively higher level of certification over time. Among other goals, the IU community hopes to improve efficiency in building performance, increase cost savings, earn LEED EB O&M certification to distinguish this iconic building. The LEED EB O&M certification at IMU can be used to pave the way for a new standard in how IU operates and manages the remaining 525 existing buildings on the Bloomington campus. Greening the IMU will be a natural next step for Indiana University which has already made an institutional commitment to the environment through the formation of an Office of Sustainability. Determining the prototype building to incorporate sustainability initiatives becomes a critical step in concretizing institutional policies in tangible terms. In addition, the Greening of the IMU serves as a prototype for Greening Memorial Unions at other campuses across the country.

Sincerely,



Daniel F. Hellmuth, AIA LEED AP
Principal