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February 27, 2020

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Colleagues of AASHE,

I write to support DePauw University's 2020 report to STARS, an occasion to celebrate this academy's numerous accomplishments since its 2014 submission and to chart goals for future progress.

I am pleased to note that this institution's commitment to sustainability and environmental justice is integral to its long-standing mission to prepare graduates who support and create positive change in their communities and the world, an endeavor of which we are all proud. Its interdisciplinary Environmental Fellows Program represents a rigorous curricular commitment to environmental justice and sustainability that is complemented by a variety of co-curricular initiatives such as the recently inaugurated Ullem Center for Sustainability and Campus Farm, as well as our long-standing Hartman Center for Civic Engagement.

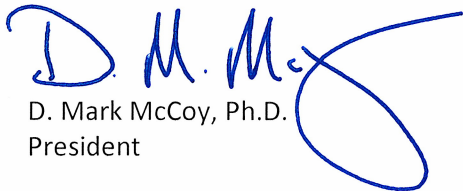
In recent developments, in 2017 the Office of Facilities Management Services invigorated DePauw's efforts to transform its energy infrastructure by launching our Campus Energy Master Plan (CEMP) in collaboration with Ecosystems Energy Services. Recent CEMP projects include a campus-wide heating and cooling piping network upgrade, efficiency improvements to heating and cooling plants, installation of LED lighting in campus buildings, optimization of energy controls, and campus-wide installation of low-flow showerheads. Our community is also in the final stages of installing a solar array located on the Indoor Tennis and Track Facility of DePauw's athletics campus. This project establishes a campus presence of renewable energy that replaces utility-purchased electricity and demonstrates the academy's commitment to sustainability. Operating data from the system will provide research and learning opportunities for faculty and students.

On May 9, 2019, DePauw University enjoyed the ceremonial dedication of its new Ullem Center for Sustainability and Campus Farm, another major sustainability undertaking that DePauw University has realized since its last participation in STARS in 2014. The Ullem Center for Sustainability invites students to engage with hands-on sustainability and agricultural initiatives. The building features a spacious, flexible interior equipped with resource-saving systems that demonstrate practical ways to enhance environmental quality. The surrounding 12-acre property offers opportunities for education, food production and community engagement for DePauw and Greencastle.

I am pleased to report that work is in progress to establish an academic minor in sustainability, and the community hopes to further grow its campus renewable energy resources, building on the experience and success of our new solar array. Students, staff, and faculty are energized to further expand the already robust experiential learning and collaborative research initiatives at our new Ullem Center for Sustainability and Campus Farm. Participation in the STARS process incentivizes us to pursue such aspirations and provides a venue for DePauw to share its successes and lessons learned with the AASHE community.

The DePauw community applauds the work of members of our University Sustainability Committee, particularly Director of Sustainability Malorie Garbe, in leading DePauw's participation in the STARS process. Their efforts will enable the DePauw community to understand, evaluate, and communicate the current status of our sustainability initiatives and performance, and to identify areas for further improvement.

All good things,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. M. McCoy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

D. Mark McCoy, Ph.D.  
President