

July 7, 2014

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213^{1/2} North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

SUBJECT: Hokie Bike Hub
STARS Letter of Affirmation – Innovation Credit

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

It is my pleasure to offer my endorsement and letter of affirmation for the STARS Innovation Credit titled *Hokie Bike Hub*.

As Vice President for Administration, I have played an active role in ensuring this program's success. Working with the Alternative Transportation staff has been integral to engaging critical stakeholders from across campus to support the initiatives of the Hokie Bike Hub.

It is my belief that the Hokie Bike Hub meets all of the STARS Innovation Criteria, and especially reflects criterion #1: "Innovation credits are reserved for new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcomes, policies, and practices that greatly exceed the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit or are not covered by an existing STARS credit."

The Hokie Bike Hub is an innovative program dedicated to empowering faculty, staff, and student cyclists through a variety of bicycle maintenance resources and programs. Primarily, the Bike Hub emphasizes hands on learning through one-on-one or small clinic experiences with Alternative Transportation staff. Additionally, the Hub supports activities and events through a number of partnerships with on campus student groups such as the Bicycle Ambassador Program who sponsor bicycle tune-up socials and group bike rides.

Invent the Future

The Hokie Bike Hub has produced impressive results to date since its opening in fall 2013. 333 patrons have visited the Hub for self-service bike repair or to learn bicycle maintenance techniques. The Alternative Transportation staff regularly host noon fix-a-flat workshops at the Hub during the fall and spring semesters for those interested in tire repair. It sponsors student-led tune-up socials by providing the tools and stands for these events. Additionally, the Hokie Bike Hub provides bicycle maps and smart cycling pamphlets for cyclists.

I look forward to the future initiatives of the Hokie Bike Hub and to seeing an increase in the number of students, faculty, and staff who use bicycling as their primary means of transportation.

For the reasons stated above, I highly recommend the Hokie Bike Hub for the STARS Innovation category based on its unique approach to fostering a vibrant bicycle culture on campus and its dedication to promoting sustainable transportation at Virginia Tech.

Sincerely,



Sherwood G. Wilson, Ph.D.
Vice President for Administration

/ks

cc: Deborah S. Freed
Richard K. McCoy