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AASHE STARS Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Committee Members:

Virginia Tech is committed to being a leader in campus sustainability. The university values the partnership with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, and is proud to be a charter participant in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) Program. It is my pleasure to endorse and affirm Virginia Tech's fourth STARS submission which accurately reflects our sustainability initiatives and progress.

In 2009, the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan was approved by the university's Board of Visitors. During a comprehensive review of this plan in 2014, STARS was chosen as the cornerstone for our future sustainability planning. I enthusiastically wish to highlight some of the features of our STARS Version 2.1 submission.

- Virginia Tech has established five Destination Areas that combine our existing strengths with novel approaches to education and research with transdisciplinary teams, tools, and processes that empower students and faculty to tackle the world's most pressing problems.
- The Global Systems Science Destination Area fosters transdisciplinary study of the dynamic interplay between the natural and social systems, and includes much of our sustainability research.
- Student engagement is vital to advancing campus sustainability and our successful initiatives include: the Student Sustainability Forum, the robust Office of Sustainability's Student Intern Program, the Green Request for Proposal (RFP) Program, and the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Sustainability Institute.
- Dining Services is nationally recognized for the quality of food, the variety of venues, and for many sustainability initiatives.
- A flagship community outreach program "Sustainability Week" is recognized at the state level as a Town-Gown sustainability model, and received a 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for fostering a culture of sustainability for the past decade.

- Virginia Tech has 27 construction projects registered in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Program (1,800,000 GSF), and 15 have received LEED certification.
- In 2016, we launched a "Five Year Energy Action Plan" that significantly improves energy efficiency and provides a \$4.5 million cost savings.
- "InclusiveVT" is a unique and strategic way for us to advance inclusion and diversity efforts and has led to our being recognized as a 2017 Diversity Champion.

Virginia Tech found the STARS team to be most accommodating and responsive during the submission process. We are pleased to continue partnering with your organization to document and provide transparency to a topic about which many of our constituents care deeply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Sands", written in a cursive style.

Timothy D. Sands
President