



January 29, 2015

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 901  
Denver CO 80202

RE: UMass Amherst STARS v2.0 Report, 2015  
Affirmation Letter for Innovation Credit-3

Dear AASHE,

I am writing to affirm that the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) is indeed innovative and sustainable. This data center serves the growing research computing needs of five Massachusetts institutions. Everything about this LEED Platinum data center is innovative and sustainable: from the renewable energy that powers the center and mechanical systems to the landscaping and water use reduction to computational fluid dynamics (CFD) modeling that it uses to maximize energy efficiency.

The long-term energy savings potential for the UMass Amherst campus is significant. With the help of Sustainable UMass, we are soon launching an outreach campaign to researchers to make sure they understand the availability of this secure, efficient, and innovative option for their research computing needs, which could, in turn create massive energy savings for the main campus. The center also has demonstrated community outreach potential. It serves the community by providing meeting, workshop and classroom space with state-of-the-art audio-visual and internet capabilities. The center has partnered with the Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Community College, and other local organizations, which are fostering STEM education at the facility and throughout the community. MGHPCC is also a key member of the Holyoke Innovation Task Force, a city-led group whose charge is to stimulate development in Holyoke by promoting innovation and the creative economy.

Please consider this program as an innovation credit for the UMass Amherst v2.0 STARS Submission. If you have any doubt that this program should not be counted as an innovation credit, please do not hesitate to contact me at (413) 545-2947 or [cmisra@umass.edu](mailto:cmisra@umass.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Misra", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher P Misra  
Chief Technology Officer  
University of Massachusetts Amherst