



Soka University of America

1 University Drive / Aliso Viejo, California 92656-8081 / Telephone 949 480-4000 / Fax 949 480-4001 / www.soka.edu

May 22nd, 2017

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

Soka University of America is pleased to submit its first Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. I confirm that the reported data is complete, accurate and a fair representation of our current sustainability efforts and initiatives on campus.

With the guiding principle: "To foster leaders for the creative coexistence of nature and humanity," Soka University of America recognizes sustainability as intrinsic to our mission and values. To foster such global citizens living a contributive life, we engage all members of our campus community to incorporate sustainable practices in all areas of university activity, including teaching, research, planning, operations, and student engagement. By utilizing specific measures of success and communicating our achievements, Soka University of America strives to become a role model for sustainable practices and progenitor of future leaders and advocates for sustainability.

I appreciate the efforts of Soka's Campus Sustainability Committee, comprised of students, faculty and staff, have been working diligently to identify and assess the university's resources and best practices in regard to the environment and sustainability. Soka University of America has achieved multiple sustainability initiatives. On our campus, we have two gold LEED-certified buildings including our academic building, Maathai Hall, and the Soka Performing Arts Center. As we look to the future, we are currently in the phase of planning for new construction for an academic building and residential hall which we are committed to attaining gold or platinum LEED-certified status. Other areas of development include drought tolerant and California native landscaping conversion, the Soka Instructional Garden facilitated by the Environmental Studies Concentration, implementation of our waste diversion program and our transition to integrated pest management.

Soka University of America will continue to encourage students, faculty, and staff to advocate for the changes necessary to improve the environmental sustainability of our campus. The STARS report will be a great tool to help us monitor our progress as our campus develops. Thank you for providing this excellent resource as well as the sustainability initiatives under AASHE's leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny Habuki".

Danny Habuki
President, Soka University of America