

July 31, 2018

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Meghan,

I am pleased to verify that California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) has completed its submittal to the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS), and these responses are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Sustainability at CSUDH has evolved greatly over time, originating mostly through the grassroots efforts of a handful of passionate students, faculty, and staff. Since 2011, the campus has earned numerous statewide best practice awards for its piloting of energy efficiency technologies, received grant funding and accolades for its use of the campus as a living laboratory for ecological research, and seen wide-spread engagement via its annual Earth Day Festival which recently celebrated its 11th year. Furthermore, with the hiring of our first full-time sustainability coordinator this last year, we now have an Office of Sustainability that can champion these efforts formally and accelerate our progress towards ambitious campus goals for net zero energy, water, and waste.

CSUDH has made enormous progress over the last year to streamline operations, engage campus stakeholders, and formalize policies supporting sustainability at our university. In February of this year, CSUDH launched a Campus Urban Farm which is already distributing produce to feed students in need, and has engaged multiple service-learning classes in the study of urban agriculture. Working with Facilities Services, the Campus Urban Farm is also researching how to establish an effective closed-loop system to compost green waste generated by grounds operations on-site. The Net Zero Innovation Center, a project resulting from the partnership between our Associated Students Incorporated organization and Facilities Services, represents another living laboratory space that is furthering sustainability education on our campus. This space, launched in April of this year, provides a learning center for students interested in seeing net zero energy, water, and waste principles in action. Equipped with sustainability technologies such as a detailed energy monitor, solar panels, a rain gutter/barrel system, vermicomposter, and other educational items, this center provides a close-up, interactive experience for students designed to inspire adopting sustainable practices in their daily lives.

CSUDH has also engaged faculty and students in sustainability initiatives that are transforming our campus culture and operations. For example, the newly formed Sustainable Landscape Committee created a Sustainable Landscape Plan that harmonizes grounds practices, campus planning, and faculty research into a definitive guide for campus landscape that addresses ecosystem function, water efficiency, student research, and much more.

We've also added regular sustainability programming to our campus schedule of events to ensure our students are engaged every fall semester with our October Sustainability Month campaign, and every spring semester with March's Race to Reduce Month. These innovative outreach campaigns, which combine tabling events with tours, competitions, and green workforce development opportunities, are creative and cutting-edge. Last October's Sustainability Month campaign earned a statewide 2018 Best Practice Award from the California Higher Education Conference for its data-driven communications approach to commuter sustainability outreach.

While our AASHE STARS submittal only touches the surface of how far we've come as a campus in our sustainability efforts thus far, there are many more projects and programs that are in the works which we look forward to sharing with you in our next STARS submittal. Until then, we hope this initial submittal demonstrates our commitment to supporting our sustainability efforts now and for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas A. Parham
President
California State University, Dominguez Hills