

INNOVATION CREDIT LETTER
Sustainability Tracking, Rating and Assessment System (STARS)

January 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to offer my endorsement and approval of the STARS Innovation Credit titled **Healthy Gators/Tobacco-free Campus.**

Healthy Gators is a coalition of students, faculty and staff from over 40 University of Florida departments and organizations working together to create a healthier campus. UF First Lady Chris Machen is the chair of Healthy Gators whose mission is to promote a campus environment supportive of the development and maintenance of a healthy body, mind and spirit for all members of the University of Florida community.

I was one of three co-founders of the coalition in 2004, and have chaired its Programming & Communications Work Group for the past 6 years. More relevant for the STARS Innovation Credit was my leadership of the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Task Force from 2007-2008. The Task Force was commissioned by the Healthy Gators Coalition and served as a catalyst for UF's Tobacco-free campus policy by creating recommendations for how to decrease tobacco use among the University of Florida community members by the year 2010.

In fall 2008, the Task Force submitted a comprehensive report to the President of UF strongly encouraging that UF become a tobacco-free campus/workplace by July 1, 2010. This recommendation was approved in spring 2009. Subsequently, the part of the UF campus known as the Health Science Center as well as the football stadium went tobacco-free in the fall of 2009, and the remainder of the campus and other off-campus buildings where UF employees worked followed suit on July 1, 2010. UF was the first public university in the state of Florida to become tobacco-free and many campuses both in Florida and around the nation have consulted with us to lay the groundwork for a tobacco-free policy at their university.

Because of this policy, thousands of cigarette butts have not been discarded on the UF campus and/or on the grounds of its other buildings; many UF students and employees have quit smoking and/or have been spared the discomfort and hazard of secondhand smoke; and most importantly, UF has reinforced its

commitment to create a culture of sustainability and health for all persons who work, live, study or visit campus.

In my opinion, this accomplishment meets the criteria for the STARS Innovation credits.

If you require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jane Emmerée

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