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March 5, 2021

STARS - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Portland State University's STARS 2021 submission

On behalf of Portland State University, I am pleased to submit the results of our sixth STARS assessment. I affirm this report to be an honest and accurate account of sustainability programs and practices on campus.

PSU's remains committed to sustainability in every aspect of the institution. This new submission maintains our STARS Gold rating and illustrates our continued progress toward a culture of stewardship, equity, interdisciplinary thinking, and innovative problem solving. The last year has been challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying political division, extreme weather events highlighting the climate crisis, and a global movement for racial justice. PSU's commitment to sustainability and resiliency helped us navigate this difficult time and strengthened our community.

We made great strides in operational sustainability this year. After certifying four buildings in previous years through LEED Building Operation and Maintenance, PSU now aims to certify four additional buildings in 2021. In partnership with the City of Portland, Portland Community College, and Oregon Health and Sciences University, we opened the Vanport Building, which is on target for LEED Gold certification. The building is named in honor of the multicultural city where PSU was first located and that flooded in 1948, displacing more than 18,500 people, including many Black families. We continued to prioritize energy efficiency projects through our Green Revolving Fund, having invested \$2.3 million to date, with an annual utility savings of approximately \$206,000. PSU also became the first university in Oregon to become a Fair Trade Certified campus.

On the academic and research front, PSU responded to the challenges of the last year by announcing a cluster hire of seven scholars in the School of Gender, Race, and Nations. The initiative prioritizes "critical thought and activism" and focuses on several themes: futurism, transformational scholarship and regenerative justice; histories of resistance, protest and community struggle; critical theory and the social and philosophical themes of liberation; and ecology and gentrification. Additionally, our Living Lab program produced several high-quality projects, including a process for making PSU's art collection physically and digitally accessible and an in-depth stormwater management analysis. Finally, the Student Sustainability Center successfully transitioned programs to a remote format keeping our students engaged in sustainability and social justice work on campus and in our communities.

PSU takes seriously its motto, Let Knowledge Serve the City, and sustainability is a key part of our contribution. I appreciate the opportunity to share these highlights and look forward to reporting on our continued innovation in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Stephen Percy
President, Portland State University