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December 6, 2013

Re: LEED Credentialing and STARS Innovation

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

This letter is being submitted in support of American University's STARS documentation for an innovation credit. Since their last STARS submission, American University has been providing a training course as part of their commitment to campus sustainability to prepare staff members for the LEED Green Associate credential exam. LEED credential holders have a deep understanding of the most current green building principles and practices, and show a clear commitment to professional growth in the field. Professionals who earn the LEED Green Associate credential have demonstrated a core knowledge needed to become a green building expert.

To date 60 campus professionals have taken the seven-week training course to learn about LEED, green building and operations practices. Staff members from many departments across the university have prepared for LEED exams including Facilities Management, the Office of the University Architect, Office of Sustainability, Housing & Dining Programs and the Washington College of Law. To date a total of 20 staff members have earned either the LEED Green Associate or LEED AP credential. This level of training and education demonstrates AU's continued commitment to building a sustainable campus and adopting LEED practices as standard operating procedure in the design, construction, operations and maintenance of campus facilities and infrastructure.

To my knowledge there is no other institution of higher education delivering this type of program with a goal of educating a diverse population of professionals on green building concepts and LEED implementation. As such, I recommend the program be accepted as an Innovation Credit in STARS.

Regards,

Jaime Van Mourik  
Director of Higher Education  
U.S. Green Building Council