

September 5, 2014

RE: "Third party review of STARS submittal"
University of Colorado Boulder's STARS 2.0 rating, September 2014. IN-3

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to affirm my opinion regarding the innovative quality of the University of Colorado Boulder's STARS 2.0 Innovation Credit titled (Third party review of STARS submittal" (IN-3).

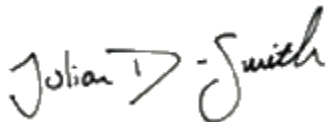
As the Chair of the STARS Steering Committee and one of three original co-creators of STARS, I feel sufficiently qualified and knowledgeable to declare that CU-Boulder's use of a third party reviewer on its STARS submission meets the requirements stated in the credit as follows:

- *"The innovation describes a new, extraordinary, unique, ground-breaking, or uncommon outcome, policies or practice"*
 - I am not aware of any other campus that has engaged a third-party to provide a comprehensive review of their STARS submission.
- *"This innovation (program, policy, or outcome) is not already covered by an existing STARS credit or greatly exceeds the highest criterion of an existing STARS credit"*
 - External verification is not required in STARS and the review provided by the third party exceeds the standard review that AASHE performs on all submissions.
- *"The innovative practice, policy, program, or outcome has occurred within the past three years"*
 - The third party review was completed during summer 2014, well within the 3 year timeframe.
- *"The institution has not previously received a STARS innovation credit for this specific practice, policy, program, or outcome"*
 - To my knowledge, this is the first time anyone has claimed third party review of a STARS submission for an Innovation credit.

Moreover, I have reviewed the analysis compiled by the third party reviewer and found it to be thorough and fair. It seems to have helped CU-Boulder make a meaningful improvement in the quality of their STARS submission.

Given all of the above, I affirm that CU-Boulder's claim of an Innovation credit for this activity is consistent with the necessarily requirements. I hope to see more institutions pursuing this kind of review in the future.

Sincerely,



Julian Dautremont-Smith
Senior Program Manager, GreenerU
Chair, STARS Steering Committee