



October 2, 2012

RE: Georgia Tech's LEED Gold, North Avenue Apartments, Building Management's Xcellence Award Recommendation

Dear Sir/Madam:

Georgia Tech's Housing Department has demonstrated superior management excellence with Georgia Tech's North Avenue Apartments' LEED Gold for Building Operations and Maintenance (EBOM) project. From massive building system improvements, designing and implementing a totally new LEED implementation process, developing and training its entire staff, and complementing it all with numerous outreach programs for student education and awareness, Housing management led with commitment and style.

When Georgia Tech inherited this former Olympic Village (built for the 1996 Olympics), the complex of nearly 1,000,000 gsf was in need of a total make over. Within an astoundingly small amount of time, this 2,000 bed facility was not only in operation and available for students to move in, it was so changed that students were **eager to move in**.

Then the inspiration for being the **first LEED Gold certified building on campus in Existing Building Operations and Maintenance** struck. Talk about selecting one of the biggest and most difficult projects possible for our first LEED EBOM project. Yes, Georgia Tech Housing understood the importance of making a big statement about "going for the gold" and demonstrating to students what leadership is all about.

Georgia Tech is a leader in renewable energy in operations and in research. Since the 1996 Olympics, Georgia Tech has the largest single solar Photovoltaic (PV) implementation in the state and a geothermal system in operation. Georgia Tech had the first DOE National Center for Excellence in Photovoltaics [research]. However, Georgia Tech had not implemented a new solar pv project on campus operations in 15 years. Housing changed that with solar trash compactors and a plan outlining other solar pv opportunities throughout housing and campus. Additionally, many people on and around campus wanted to see a wind demonstration project on campus. Housing is the group who made wind turbines on campus happen. Student researchers (sponsored by Housing) installed the first wind generator on campus and put it above the North Avenue Apartment Trolley turnaround, so it would be visible to all students living in the North Avenue Apartments.

In 2011, 700 students took the on line quiz Housing sponsored to demonstrate awareness and opportunities related to living in a sustainable focus residence hall. Over 600 students received t-shirt made of recycled plastic bottles as a result of a joint project with my office, and Coca-Cola to raise awareness and educate students about the need to raise the level of plastic bottle recycling on campus. Housing surveyed student interests in sustainability and highlighted sustainability in their Earth Day booth for multiple years. Housing and I presented the North Avenue Apartments LEED project in our GT1000 class.

Housing installed water stations, which in 9 months have eliminated over 500,000 plastic bottles that would otherwise been recycled (20%) or put into the landfill (80%).

Housing sponsors a [ThinkBig Program](#) which for 2012, includes sustainability themed topics such as: [Sustainability and Outdoor Leadership](#), [International House](#), [Women, Science and Technology](#), [Thought for Food](#), and [Thought for Food](#).

I could go on and on, but instead I will tell you that Housing has simply been the most cooperative partner to my office and mission. Housing excels among many fine operations and customer service staff at Georgia Tech, a 5 time Princeton Review Green Honor Roll university, with five perfect green scores.

Sincerely,

Marcia Kinstler

Sustainability Director, Georgia Tech