

To: Dr. Madhu Khanna, Interim iSEE Director, and Dr. Ehab Kamarah, Interim F&S Executive Director

From: Dr. Ximing Cai, Morgan White, and Meredith Moore

The Resilience Commitment is our campus pledge to work with the cities of Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy to address the local impacts and consequences of climate change and collaboratively develop mitigation strategies. We made significant progress since the Chancellor committed to this effort in 2016, including a proclamation with the mayors in 2018, affirming a partnership for joint climate resilience efforts. The Resilience iCAP Team was formed in August 2019 to concentrate on resilience issues, and the iCAP 2020 outlines ambitious resilience goals to focus our efforts in the next five years:

- 8.1 [Extension w/F&S] Develop a coordinated urban biodiversity master plan by FY24 to make the Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and campus metro area a model for biodiversity.
- 8.2 [F&S w/Extension] Coordinate rainwater management plans for the entire urbanized areas of Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and the university. Starting in FY21, share the total number of green infrastructure locations on the iCAP Portal on an annual basis.
- 8.3 [iSEE] Develop a collaborative plan for environmental justice that will assess metro area resilience and actively address related issues. The plan should be written and publicized by FY24.
- 8.4 [iSEE] Take leadership in addressing the most pressing sustainability challenges in our local communities through collaboration with local governments and related community groups, by forming an advisory panel for coordinating efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. By FY24, select at least three major local sustainability issues to address and identify lead agency and key stakeholders.
- 8.5 [iSEE] By FY23, collaborate with colleges and community groups to inventory existing certification opportunities for green jobs and identify gaps.
- 8.6 [F&S] Support Vision Zero as a county-wide goal for safe and sustainable transportation.
- 8.7 [iSEE] Establish a local offsets program by FY24.

These objectives are important for the long-term relationship between the University and our community neighbors, so they are a high priority for our climate leadership efforts. However, we recognize that there is a lack of human resource capacity at iSEE and F&S to devote the effort needed to accomplish the resilience commitment and create meaningful change. This effort also needs support from someone who has a strong knowledge of the local community groups, governmental bodies, and environmental needs. Just like the Education, Transportation, and Energy Conservation efforts had dedicated positions created after the Carbon Commitment was signed, the Resilience Commitment needs additional support as well.

To fill this need, we propose contracting with the Applied Research Institute (ARI) in the Grainger College of Engineering for a six-month agreement to allocate 20 hours per week of Stacy Gloss' time. This agreement would help bridge the campus - community conversations and advance the resilience projects. The six-month term should have a possibility of extension upon review. As a university staff member with Indoor Climate Research and Training under ARI, a member on the Resilience iCAP Team, and the current chair of the City of Urbana Sustainability Advisory Commission, Stacy is perfectly situated to take on this assignment. She is highly connected and involved in community efforts with local personnel knowledge and the background to quickly and effectively take on this effort. She also has the capacity within her current position to support this effort for iSEE, if we can fund her time. Under

this agreement, Stacy would operate collaboratively with Dr. Ximing Cai, Morgan White, and Meredith Moore, under Ximing's leadership and guidance.

Each of the Resilience objectives (listed above) have had preliminary discussions about how to move them forward, and some of them have had a series of in depth discussions and strategic research about how to set up the foundation to successfully achieve the goals. A key example that will be a priority for Stacy is the Environmental Justice Plan. During 2021 Meredith convened a team of about 20 stakeholders to discuss the intentions and potential scope of the Environmental Justice Plan, monthly. This team includes several campus and community leaders, such as Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span the Director of Campus Culture and Climate at the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Scott Tess the Resilience and Sustainability Officer for the City of Urbana. Through these discussions, it was agreed that an Environmental Justice Plan for our community must be created through a strategic and well-defined process, to ensure comprehensiveness, appropriate representation and inclusivity, and reach a strategic understanding. Stacy Gloss would work with this team to define the infrastructure and framework for development of a plan, which will ultimately position the university to help our community progress in a fair and just way.

- Six month agreement from 9/16/21 to 3/15/22
- Stacy Gloss to work 20 hours per week on the resilience objectives for the iCAP 2020
- iSEE and F&S to provide \$18,025.00 to ARI via Journal Voucher from a state funds account.

The deliverables for this six month agreement for each Resilience objective, are listed below. Each related objective from the iCAP 2020 is shown in *italics* and specific deliverables are noted in **bold**. **Weekly progress updates will be expected on the iCAP Portal, and monthly progress updates will be expected at the Resilience iCAP Team meetings.**

- *8.1 [Extension w/F&S] Develop a coordinated urban biodiversity master plan by FY24 to make the Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and campus metro area a model for biodiversity.*
 - Assist UI Extension staff to initialize this plan, from 9/15/21 to 3/15/22.
- *8.2 [F&S w/Extension] Coordinate rainwater management plans for the entire urbanized areas of Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and the university. Starting in FY21, share the total number of green infrastructure locations on the iCAP Portal on an annual basis.*
 - Initiate discussions about development of rainwater plan
 - Compile green infrastructure locations in Champaign, Urbana and Savoy.
 - **Deliverable: iCAP Portal map of known green infrastructure locations by 3/15/22**
 - Propose a process and scope for developing the coordinated rainwater plan
 - **Deliverable: white paper describing process and scope**
- *8.3 [iSEE] Develop a collaborative plan for environmental justice that will assess metro area resilience and actively address related issues. The plan should be written and publicized by FY24.*
 - Hold monthly EJ stakeholder group meetings/calls with existing team to provide updates and receive input
 - **Deliverable: monthly meeting minutes posted on iCAP Portal from Sep 2021 to February 2022**
 - Define a structure for appropriately developing our Environmental Justice (EJ) Plan, including plans for the community and campus engagement process with recommended

stakeholder groups to engage, a scope of the EJ plan, and the schedule for plan development

- **Deliverable: white paper describing plans for the community and campus engagement process, a scope of the EJ plan, and the schedule for plan development, by 1/31/22**
- Identify further financial and staff needs for creation of the EJ Plan; at the end provide a white paper on EJ Plan for iWG discussion and Council approval
 - **Deliverable: provide draft EJ Plan for discussion to iCAP Working Group co-chairs, by 2/28/22**
- *8.4 [iSEE] Take leadership in addressing the most pressing sustainability challenges in our local communities through collaboration with local governments and related community groups, by forming an advisory panel for coordinating efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. By FY24, select at least three major local sustainability issues to address and identify lead agency and key stakeholders.*
 - Coordinate an initial meeting with the new advisory panel to share current campus efforts and learn about local governmental efforts
 - **Deliverable: meeting notes from advisory panel discussion posted on iCAP Portal, by 3/15/22**
- *8.5 [iSEE] By FY23, collaborate with colleges and community groups to inventory existing certification opportunities for green jobs and identify gaps.*
 - Review findings from student research about green job opportunities
 - Assist iSEE staff to complete this inventory
 - **Deliverable: provide inventory content to iSEE communications team by 1/31/22**
 - **Deliverable: update iCAP Portal inventory page with link to iSEE page by 3/15/22**
- *8.6 [F&S] Support Vision Zero as a county-wide goal for safe and sustainable transportation.*
 - Coordinate with Professor Benekohal, the City of Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC), and F&S Transportation Demand Management to identify actions needed to support Vision Zero
 - **Deliverable: white paper identifying key steps needed by 11/15/21**
- *8.7 [iSEE] Establish a local offsets program by FY24.*
 - Review findings from student research about potential offset programs
 - Propose a plan with the steps needed to accomplish this goal
 - **Deliverable: white paper proposing initial steps for initiating this program by 1/31/22**

Overall, this work will speed up the implementation of the iCAP 2020 Resilience objectives and prepare ideas for iCAP recommendations.