



May 31, 2020

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

It is with great pleasure that California State University, Stanislaus (Stanislaus State) presents its first STARS report.

The faculty, staff, administrators, and students of California State University, Stanislaus are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that encourages all members of the campus community to expand their intellectual, creative, and social horizons. The University defines its mission, vision, values and diversity statements in our *Sense of Place, Inclusion, Transformation, and Future University Strategic Plan 2017-2025*, which is reflected in the programs and actions described in our STARS report.

Our strategy to “develop new academic programs that prepare students for careers related to sustainability/environment, which also address important issues unique to the Central Valley and Foothills of our service region” is pursued, in part, by our Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Communities. The President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion has established a timeline for measurable outcomes and visible results for policies, programs, and trainings related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and human rights through our Diversity Center.

Campus Operations has achieved significant progress towards our intentional strategies to reduce waste and energy consumption and hone administrative efficacy through thoughtful stewardship of resources. The University has incorporated a number of strategic investments towards reducing our energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions including a high-speed, web-based energy management system, high efficiency cooling towers, and installation of photovoltaic systems and internal and external LED lights.

The unique structure of our campus allows us to capture water from the campus irrigation system, and storm water run-off from all areas of campus, in the main reflecting pond (holding pond) and campus lakes for re-use. The conversion of the central plant cooling towers from the City of Turlock's domestic water supply to this reclaimed water has resulted in a 30% reduction in potable water use per unit of floor area.

The transparent and accountable framework of STARS has been a valuable tool that has allowed us to identify key areas for future improvement that we will attempt to address for future submissions. This includes food waste composting, installation of additional photovoltaic cells, a standardized recycling program, alternative transportation initiatives, and sustainable investments.

As President of California State University, Stanislaus, I affirm that the information in this submission has been thoroughly checked for accuracy. I thank the many faculty, students, and staff that were involved in collecting and providing information without which this STARS submission would not have been possible. Their contributions are especially significant in respect to the challenges faced while completing the report during the global pandemic. I look forward to continuing on this journey with other colleges and universities who have made the commitment to sustainability, especially the 23 campuses of the California State University system, and our peers in California and the United States.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Junn'.

Ellen Junn, Ph.D.
President

Office of the President

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A proud member of the 23-campus California State University system.