

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DOROTHY LELAND  
CHANCELLOR

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1/13/16

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of California, Merced I am pleased to verify that the information presented in the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge and ability.

As the first new research campus of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, UC Merced has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to demonstrate from the ground up sustainable environmental, economic and social systems that encourage the next generation to transcend the accomplishments of the present.

The achievements made in LEED Certification of existing campus buildings, energy efficiency and procurement at UC Merced compliment the demonstrated successes of faculty, staff and students that lead the charge in creating a culture of sustainability and stewardship here at UC Merced. These efforts comprise the development of a LEED Lab course in Engineering Service Learning that provides students the opportunity to actively certify a campus building according to LEED benchmarks.

UC Merced is also leading the way through the Water Security and Sustainability Research Initiative, amalgamating experts from across the UC system to build a strategic base of water knowledge to help California and the nation achieve a water-secure future.

With a 1 MW Solar array that currently provides twelve percent of UC Merced's campus annual electricity consumption, and an added photovoltaic system that will produce an additional ten percent of the campus energy consumption, these great strides have allowed UC Merced to establish its "Triple Zero Commitment," requiring our campus to produce its power renewably (zero net energy), generate zero landfill waste, and achieve climate neutrality (zero GHG emissions) by 2020.

Since UC Merced's inception in 2005 it has sustainably stimulated California's San Joaquin Valley economic engine. Our young faculty and students are already making discoveries and inventions with great potential for positioning the Valley as a global leader in the emerging green economy.

UC Merced looks forward to its role in advancing the sustainability agenda in teaching, research and public service for our students and the generations of students to come. Completion of the STARS survey allows UC Merced to share its sustainability progress to date and sets the stage for our campus ongoing progress moving sustainability forward.

Sustainably,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy Leland".

Dorothy Leland  
Chancellor