



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
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February 25, 2019

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut St, Suite 102
Philadelphia, Pa 19103

Dear Meghan,

On behalf of the University of California, Merced (UC Merced), I am pleased to submit a Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) report that highlights the extraordinary progress the university has made to advance sustainability.

UC Merced serves as a global institutional model for providing new insights and a balanced approach to responding to the social, environmental, and economic challenges of today. The immersive strategies taken by our university community have empowered students to engage in impactful, experiential learning that has enriched the built environment.

The dedication of our faculty has expanded bodies of new knowledge that inform scholarly research and publications, and the innovation of our staff has strengthened the direction of our sustainable institutional practices. Through the multidimensional actions reflected in this STARS report, the university has distinctively maximized the connectivity of a network to develop substantive solutions that enable success and build confidence in unconventional measures.

Select efforts that support the establishment of our thriving, holistic, sustainable community include:

- Energize Colleges Program, a multi-campus partnership designed to provide students with sustainability internships
- UCTV Sustainable California Channel, where UC Merced serves as the lead institution to bridge collaboration and elevate UC sustainability research
- Installation of a four (4) mega-watt onsite solar system that provides fifty-percent (50%) of the campus electrical load
- Crop Mobster, a community wide platform developed to address food insecurity, and reduce food waste.

UC Merced leads from the front and builds forward. Completion of the STARS report allows the university to share its sustainability progress to date and sets the stage for our campus to continue to chart the course for emerging sustainable solutions.

Sincerely,

Michael McLeod
Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating Officer