

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Duluth Campus

Office of the Chancellor

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August 2, 2011

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, STARS Program

From: Lendley C. Black, Chancellor 

Re: Verification of the UMD STARS Submission for August 2, 2011

On behalf of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), I am pleased to verify the submission from our campus to the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) Program. Our submission reflects an ongoing commitment and a dedication to future progress on sustainability issues at our campus. The campus commitment to sustainability started long ago; our campus location near Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes, and the north woods of Minnesota has provided additional background motivation for our efforts to save resources and to reduce pollution.

Although the commitment to sustainability has always been present on our campus, UMD has entered a new era in implementation. Our new campus [Strategic Plan](#), which was approved last spring, lists sustainability as a Core Value and incorporates sustainability principles into many of our Goals and Action Steps. We have identified short-term [Action Steps](#) that will help improve our physical campus and operations, increase our diversity and promote an inclusive campus culture, and increase sustainability concepts into our academic programs.

Further embracing sustainability in our operations, curriculum, and campus culture will better prepare our students in developing critical thinking skills to handle the complicated, interdisciplinary, and interconnected global issues of today and the future. UMD will continue to track campus progress on sustainability, and STARS will be a key performance measurement that we employ. Along with tracking our campus greenhouse gas emissions, STARS will provide a well-rounded and focused measurement tool that is broad and robust.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of two UMD Office of Sustainability interns for their help in collecting and verifying submission information: Nicholas Benz (UMD senior, Environmental Studies major), and James Peterson (UMD, 2010 Environmental Studies graduate).

## Mission Statement

The University of Minnesota Duluth integrates liberal education, research, creative activity, and public engagement and prepares students to thrive as lifelong learners and globally engaged citizens.