

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Duluth Campus

Office of the Chancellor

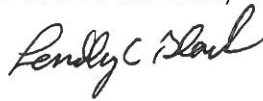
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June 15, 2016

To: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

From: Lendley C. Black, Chancellor



Re: Verification of the UMD STARS Submission for June, 2016

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 dedication to future progress on sustainability issues on the UMD campus. In the past 5 years, implementation of the UMD Strategic Plan solidified sustainability as a core value for the campus.

Campus operations have had an inherent sustainability focus for over a decade, and we continue progress in waste reduction (*including campus-wide compost collection*), energy (*UMD Green Revolving Fund, efficiency projects*), and improvements in green cleaning and renewable energy demonstration sites (*wind and solar*).

UMD has increased the focus on sustainability in our academics, research, and co-curricular programming. UMD faculty work relentlessly to include sustainability concepts in academic programming, including a Liberal Education requirement in sustainability. Beyond the Liberal Education requirement, collaborations amongst and across disciplines include sustainability in course work and group projects. UMD researchers, faculty members, and students are working on sustainability research and public service projects. At last count, more than \$14 million in active funding supported research projects related to sustainability issues. Student involvement and advocacy advances operational improvements and raises the visibility of the campus commitment to sustainability.

UMD will continue to track campus progress on sustainability, and STARS will be a key performance measurement that we employ. Beyond tracking greenhouse gas emissions, STARS provides a well-rounded and focused measurement tool that is broad and robust.



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