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01 March 2020

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee and interested readers,

On behalf of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), I am pleased to submit the university's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report. The UMBC Office of Sustainability collaborated diligently with campus staff to collect up-to-date and pertinent data for the STARS report. This comprehensive review of UMBC's efforts is an accurate representation of the university's sustainability practices, programs, and standards. The university recently updated its Climate Action Plan and adjusted its planned carbon neutrality date from 2075 to 2050. UMBC's committed students, faculty, and staff continue to find innovative ways to champion sustainability throughout all aspects of campus.

Established in 1966, UMBC is one the fastest-growing research universities in the nation – designated a Doctoral University with High Research Activity in the most recent Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, which places us among the top 220 research universities in the nation. US News & World Report has recognized UMBC as “best for undergraduate teaching” and “most innovative.” This dynamic public research university, consistently recognized as one of the best places to work by both the *Baltimore Sun* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, serves over 13,600 undergraduate and graduate students on our 500-acre campus featuring over 4.5 million square feet of building space.

Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.

UMBC welcomes this opportunity to earn a STARS rating as the university continues to make progress towards its long-term sustainability and resilience goals. Please contact Mr. Ryan Kmetz, Assistant Director of Sustainability, at rkmetz@umbc.edu should you have any questions about our STARS Report.

Sincerely,

Lynne C. Schaefer
Vice-President
Administration and Finance