

March 9, 2022

AASHE  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Lees-McRae College, I am proud to submit this letter as a portion of our submission to the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System. This is a new undertaking for Lees-McRae, and I am proud of our faculty, staff and students for their work in making this a priority for our institution. Our board of trustees and our entire administration gives its complete commitment to ensuring a broader culture of sustainability at Lees-McRae, and we find the STARS program to be the perfect scorecard and benchmark to monitor our sustainability efforts.

Intentional focus on sustainability is the very DNA of Lees-McRae. Our motto, *In the Mountains, Of the Mountains, For the Mountains* echoes our founder's vision to be an institution that fully serves the mountain community surrounding our campus. Stewardship of scarce resources and nurturing the environment come naturally to Lees-McRae, and these ideals are carefully woven throughout our unique academic programs and in our co-curricular offerings.

Our initial data this year pointed to some very encouraging trends, especially as we use the STARS system to track our progress toward a larger set of sustainability goals. We see encouraging data on sustainability literacy, deep personal interest in recycling, and active engagement in personally living a sustainable lifestyle. Our data also give us important, new foundational benchmarks for us to build a stronger commitment to sustainable practices at the college.

Thank you for your work in encouraging institutions of higher education to not only lead in the areas of sustainability but to use our educational platform to inspire the future generations of students who will carry a culture of sustainability to their homes, future employers and communities.

Sincerely,



Herbert L. King, Jr. Ed.D  
President