



# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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January 30, 2023

Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Steering Committee  
Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

RE: The San Diego Mesa College STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of San Diego Mesa College, I am pleased to present the enclosed submission to be included in the STARS framework and program.

As one of the largest and most successful of California's 116 community colleges, and the largest college in the San Diego Community College District, Mesa College takes pride in its high academic standards, excellent programs and services, and personal approach to helping each student succeed.

We are committed to access, success, and equity. We honor those commitments as a diverse community of faculty, students, professional staff, and administrators who collaborate to foster scholarship, leadership, innovation, and excellence in an inclusive learning environment that emphasizes environmental stewardship.

We have been actively working on making our campus and operations more sustainable and enhancing the environmental awareness of our community. As we began working on the rigorous reporting components for the STARS system, we quickly realized what an influential tool it would be in helping us become a more sustainable campus. Working on STARS has enabled us to evaluate our practices and culture thoroughly and offered great insight into strategies to enhance our sustainable practices. The ability to learn from other higher education institutions in the STARS program has also served to inform our practices.

San Diego Mesa College recognizes the potential environmental, economic, and social benefits of resource efficiency and sustainability, which are essential components of our Mesa 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan. We will continue to use the STARS criteria in developing our Climate Action Plan and help underscore the critical role that higher education institutions must play in navigating our society toward a more sustainable future.

To the best of our knowledge, the information presented in this evaluation is accurate and up to date. Our Environmental Sustainability Committee and Facilities Management oversaw the STARS assessment process; the data were provided by faculty, staff, and students.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashanti T. Hands".

Ashanti T. Hands, President  
San Diego Mesa College