

October 12, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to submit the first STARS Report on behalf of Modesto Junior College (MJC). Developing awareness about sustainable and responsible usage of our resources as well as embracing programs and practices that demonstrate our commitment is a strategic goal of MJC. I would like to highlight a few key activities, among others, that has taken place during the last year.

**Agriculture Department: Environmental Conservation program**

The Environmental Conservation classes utilize an "environmental conservation" section of our campus to study sustainable food production. This area includes closed loop food production systems, including fruits, vegetables, bee (honey) and aquaculture. Students experiment with various "fertigation" recipes (with fertilizer produced by the aquaculture tanks where tilapia grow) to see how well they work in fruit/vegetable production. This area also includes a native plant nursery where students study beneficial insects. There is a rainwater capture system that will provide water. Systems (including aquaculture tanks) will be powered by solar panels. All food products will be sold to the public at a "country store" on campus (see "Student-run enterprises"). MJC has been a leader in Agricultural Technology in the Central Valley for the last several decades. The STARS program has added an urgency to improve sustainability.

**Campus Composting Program**

All green waste (including lawn clippings, wood chippings, as well as all manure, straw and shavings from livestock) is being composted at a dedicated site on campus. This finished compost will be used in other campus areas (planted areas, livestock pastures, and cover crop demonstration area). This program will divert waste from landfills/incinerators and reduce the expenses related to fertilizer and mulch use on campus. In 2020, the college composted 24.6 tons of green waste.

**Construction of Zero Net Energy Design (and LEED Platinum rated) new Central Services building**

This building houses the offices of the Yosemite Community College District Central Services. The building is located on MJC's West Campus. Construction was completed in 2016. It was highlighted by the Division of the State Architect's "California Sustainable Schools" Showcase. Now, we are adding sixteen electric charging stations to the two campuses of MJC to encourage usage of electric vehicles. It is our goal to continue to add more electric vehicle charging stations every year that can be used by the employees as well as the local community.



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MJC has been a leading institution of higher learning in the Central Valley for the last century. We celebrated our centennial year in 2022 and renewed our pledge to continue to serve the community by advancing responsible usage of our natural resources and improving awareness about sustainability in the local community.

My sincere thanks to the STARS committee for leading the sustainability efforts on and off campus. The MJC leadership is fully committed to support this initiative going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bandyopadhyay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Santanu Bandyopadhyay  
President