



March 9, 2022

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

It is with great pleasure that Georgia Southern University presents its 2022 submission to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)'s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). This will be the first submission of a STARS report from Georgia Southern University, and we are proud of the work our campus is doing to advance sustainability efforts on campus. The information contained in our submission has been compiled by staff from our Office of Leadership and Community Engagement, which is home to our educational sustainability program, Sustain Southern. Other contributors include staff from the Division of Facilities Services, specifically Environmental Health and Safety, and other staff who oversee other areas of the submission.

The mission of Georgia Southern University is to create a *learner-centered culture* that *prepares us to think, lead, teach and serve* and our success is measured by the global impact of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Georgia Southern University values sustainability and includes it specifically in one of our Strategic Pillars - Operational Efficiency, Effectiveness and Sustainability. In 2020-2021, Georgia Southern University has also established our first Sustainability Advisory Committee, composed of students, faculty and staff; and created a new Climate Action Plan to include all three of our campuses - Statesboro, Savannah, and Hinesville. The university offers a Bachelors of Science in Coastal Plains Science, a Masters of Science in Environmental Science and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, in addition to an interdisciplinary minor in Environmental Sustainability and a major in Sustainability Science.

Here are a few points of pride for our campus:

- Revision of Georgia Southern University's Climate Action Plan (CAP) to aid in the university's reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all three campuses
- The Office of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction earned multiple Georgia Peach Green Building Awards for the construction of the new Interdisciplinary Academic Building, the new Engineering and Research building, and the remodeling of the University Police Department facility
- Georgia Southern University was recognized on the 2021 Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges

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- A variety of educational programming including GreenFest, hosted in downtown Statesboro for the entire campus and local community and Southern Sustainability Week, which highlights programs presented by partners from across campus disciplines

As President of Georgia Southern University, I affirm that the information submitted in this STARS submission has been checked for accuracy and is representative of Georgia Southern University's current sustainability efforts. I look forward to continuing the research, education and action towards sustainability progress on our campuses. We, as a campus community, will continue to work to create a more sustainable community in an effort to make a more promising future for all.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kyle Marrero
President