



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of South Dakota, I am pleased to submit to you our institution's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report. This report is the work of many individuals, with particular credit due to the 2022 senior capstone class of the university's Department of Sustainability & Environment.

For USD, the STARS report serves two vital purposes: marking the progress we have made in recent years and charting a course of continued improvement. A 2015 report by the President's Joint Committee on Sustainability outlined a set of goals for our curriculum, research, operations, and community. Since then, USD has developed several points of pride rooted in sustainability, including campus-wide recycling, move-out donation days, the Yote Bike Share program, the Food Recovery Network, and an annual community-wide Earth Days celebration. I affirm, to the best of my knowledge, that all the information in this report accurately represents USD's work and achievements in the domain of sustainability. I also affirm that our institution will take the lessons learned from this report to inform our efforts in the years ahead.

As global citizens, residents along the Missouri River, and members of the Vermillion community, USD's faculty, staff and students are committed to pursuing sustainability in its many forms. We are grateful to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for creating its reporting framework, which will help USD to continue to make progress as responsible stewards of the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sheila K. Gestring'.

Sheila K. Gestring
President
University of South Dakota