



University of Colorado at Boulder

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November 2, 2010

Philip P. DiStefano, Chancellor
STARS Affirmation

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 1/2 North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: University of Colorado at Boulder STARS submission

The University of Colorado at Boulder has a storied history of accomplishment in the field of sustainability. Decades of student, faculty, and staff leadership in academics, research, operations, and community involvement have consistently placed CU-Boulder in the vanguard of sustainability leaders nationally and globally. From the establishment of our environmental studies program over 50 years ago, to the founding of our student-led Environmental Center on Earth Day of 1970, CU-Boulder has been an historic leader in this arena.

Consistent with that legacy of leadership, I am pleased to affirm our first sustainability self assessment using the new Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Ratings System (STARS). We were excited to have our campus involved with the genesis and development of this nationally recognized assessment tool. We found great value in piloting an early version and we enthusiastically joined ranks with hundreds of the nation's finest campuses as Charter STARS Participants. The University of Colorado at Boulder is now pleased to submit our assessment in support of our STARS Gold rating – I believe the nation's first STARS Gold rating. After months of diligent collection and review of the data in this report, I am satisfied it is accurate, current, and representative of our values.

With this chapter compiled we look to new challenges. Sustainability continues to be a fundamental value in all we do. We seek the same continuous improvement in our sustainability performance that STARS promotes. Our goal is nothing less than being a global leader in sustainability – and that aspiration carries with it great responsibility to advance on all fronts while working with our colleagues, our community, and our global partners to share our success while continuously learning from others.

The challenge to transition society to a sustainable future is one we take very seriously. Thank you to AASHE for creating the STARS tool such that we all may be better informed and guided down this critical path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip P. DiStefano".

Philip P. DiStefano
Chancellor
University of Colorado at Boulder