



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 9, 2015

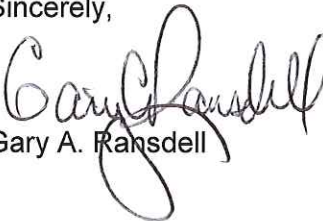
Dear AASHE Board of Directors and STARS Review Committee:

Western Kentucky University has been a proud member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education since 2008. WKU students, faculty, and staff have been served by AASHE resources, attended and presented at AASHE annual conferences, and in 2013, WKU was a proud sponsor of the AASHE conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

We are pleased to submit our third AASHE STARS assessment. Each time we complete this process it is a valuable learning experience, allowing us to identify areas and opportunities for improvement and guiding plans and priorities for continuous progress in our efforts to educate and operate with sustainability as a core mission. The information provided in this WKU STARS submission was researched and compiled under the direction of Sustainability Coordinator Christian Ryan. Ms. Ryan was assisted by students Beth McGrew and Laura Goodwin, who both look forward to graduating this spring with Masters degrees in *Social Responsibility and Sustainability Communities*. Individuals and departments from across campus assisted in providing accurate data. I am confident that the information in the report is accurate and complete.

Our university motto is "The Spirit Makes the Master," and we endeavor to demonstrate excellence and leadership in all that we do. We have approached sustainability with this spirit, and I am particularly excited about our current work focused on climate change. We have recently cultivated a partnership with the University of Akureyri, Iceland to foster collaborative climate change research, as the result of an interdisciplinary climate change themed study abroad experience (described in our STARS Innovation Credit 4). A diverse team of university faculty, staff, and students are currently working to develop a unique and comprehensive Climate Action Plan for WKU that will ultimately engage all stakeholders. We look forward to sharing these stories in our next STARS submission.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Ransdell

GAR:sh

The Spirit Makes the Master

Western Kentucky University | 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11001 | Bowling Green, KY 42101-1001
phone: 270-745-4346 | fax: 270-745-4492 | web: www.wku.edu

Equal Education and Employment Opportunities • Printing paid from state funds, KRS 57.375 • Hearing Impaired Only: 270.745.5389