



# FURMAN

January 14, 2015

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to endorse Furman University's January 2015 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System submission. These data provide an accurate and comprehensive reflection of our institution's sustainability efforts. As a charter participant of the STARS self-assessment tool in 2011, we are proud to submit this updated report as evidence of the university's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

With this report, Furman scored very high in engagement of the campus community and continues to make progress in the sustainability of its campus infrastructure, operations and grounds. In particular, I would like to highlight three STARS areas in which we believe our high scores reflect areas of true distinction for the university: curriculum, research, and public engagement. Sustainability is a hallmark of Furman's liberal arts **curriculum** and undergraduate **research** agenda. In the 2013-14 academic year, 63 percent of courses, and at least one from each academic department, included sustainability principles. A general education requirement ensures that each graduate completes a course addressing the interaction of humans and the natural world. The sustainability science major offers students the opportunity to apply their academic experience to understanding and developing solutions to systems-based local and global challenges. The Environmental Community of Students (ECOS) program cited as an innovation credit merges curricular sustainability with the residential experience for interested first-year students. Programs of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability, part of the Academic Affairs division, drive the use of campus as a living laboratory for classes across the curriculum, as well as the high percentage of faculty and student teams researching sustainability topics both on and off campus. Further, the Center leads university collaboration with the greater community on sustainability topics-- initiatives that contributed to high marks for **public engagement**.

I would like to thank the many members of the university community who contributed to the reporting process. Student fellows Kris Hajny, Brooks Musangu, Ying Yang, Logan Richardson, Divya Khandke and Elisabeth Schatke worked with Yancey Fouché in the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability to compile and analyze data. Data inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Fouché at 864-294-3656 or [yancey.fouche@furman.edu](mailto:yancey.fouche@furman.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Davis".

Elizabeth Davis  
President