



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

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January 30, 2023

Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Steering Committee
Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

RE: The San Diego City College STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of San Diego City College, I am pleased to present the enclosed submission to be included in the STARS framework and program.

San Diego City College acknowledges that we gather on unceded Kumeyaay land. We value Indigenous knowledge and cultural worldview. We commit to providing transformative educational experiences for all campus members and guests as we examine practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous, Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities. We pledge to sustain a meaningful and respectful relationship with the Kumeyaay and other Indigenous communities as we honor this beautiful land together.

First known as a junior college, San Diego City College was the third community college established in California. We are proud to be a highly diverse, multicultural institution committed to providing open access to all and to meeting the varied and ever-changing educational, cultural, and economic needs of the urban core and surrounding communities of San Diego. We are committed to the tradition of academic freedom and responsibility, employee empowerment, and maintaining a climate that promotes learning, understanding, and respect for students, faculty, classified professionals, the community, and the environment.

Among the core tenets of our value system are environmental sustainability and a campus culture of conservation. We work to develop informed, active individuals who will be engaged in the global community and serve as social and environmental justice advocates.

As part of our efforts, we have planted the seeds to meet a growing demand for sustainable agriculture, thanks to our in-demand Sustainable Urban Agriculture program and our Seeds@City Urban Farm. Established in 2008, this beautiful farm, totaling about an acre, serves as an outdoor laboratory in the downtown core of California's second-largest city. Produce harvested from the farm is sold to the campus community and nearby residents throughout the year.

We have been actively working on making our campus and operations more sustainable and serving as good stewards of our planet's precious natural resources while enhancing the environmental awareness of our community.

Working on STARS has strengthened our efforts to continually evaluate our practices and culture and apply new strategies to enhance our sustainable practices. The ability to learn from other higher education institutions in the STARS program has also informed our practices.

San Diego City College recognizes resource efficiency and sustainability's potential environmental, economic, and social benefits. As such, our 2023-2030 Facilities Plan emphasizes sustainability, calling for future projects and facilities to reflect sustainable principles set forth by organizations, including AASHE and STARS, the AIA Committee on the Environment, the AIA 2030 Challenge, and the United States Green Building Council. Future practices will include appropriate Zero Net Energy, Zero Net Carbon, and LEED design and criteria; a focus on carbon sequestration; climate-responsive design, climate-adaptive non-invasive native vegetation in outdoor environments; and the use of renewable energy and building materials with high-impact potential for emissions reductions.

To our knowledge, the information presented in this evaluation is current and accurate. Our Environmental Sustainability Committee and Facilities Management oversaw the STARS assessment process; faculty, classified professionals, and students provided the data.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Shabazz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D.
President
San Diego City College