



Office of the President

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September 7, 2011

Mr. Paul Rowland
The Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mr. Rowland:

This letter is to affirm the accuracy of the AASHE STARS submission for New Mexico State University. The efforts required to complete this report have helped to create a new focus for our sustainability initiatives.

NMSU is a land-grant university with four community colleges, 13 Agricultural Science Centers, and 33 Cooperative Extension offices around the state. New Mexico State University is the state's land-grant university, serving the educational needs of New Mexico's diverse population through comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education, and public service.

NMSU is delighted with its **Bronze** STARS rating and plans to use the STARS reporting system as the guiding principles for our sustainability efforts as we look toward our vision of creating a greener university.

NMSU currently has five buildings with 115,300 square feet of LEED silver and gold certified space. We are also proud to be among the top 100 research institutions in the United States. Some of our research projects are currently focused on bio-algae and bio-fuels, chile, water, solar, and the use of local cotton seed as food, meal, and fuel. Over the last 5 years, NMSU has installed utility meters on over half of the major buildings on the main campus. The metering system was designed by one of our engineers to monitor energy and water use and is directly connected to our Central Utility Plant for monitoring in "real-time" and to provide the ability to change the operations of the heating/cooling systems. These are just a few examples of our accomplishments.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force was first organized in 2005. It is now the Sustainability Council comprised of staff, faculty, students, and community volunteers. We have monthly meetings to update NMSU on current sustainability issues and we usually invite a public speaker to share their knowledge. The meetings are now broadcast live on the internet as well as to our four community college campuses via campus videoconferencing. This year our primary goal was to complete the AASHE STARS report; our volunteer project for the 2011-2012 year is to accomplish the certification of NMSU as a Bicycle Friendly University.

I welcome further participation in STARS to aid us in benchmarking our goal of becoming one of the top green universities in the nation. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts to aid us in our efforts.

Sincerely,


Barbara Couture
President