



## Office of the President

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January 23, 2017

STARS Steering Committee

Association for the Advancement in Sustainability in Higher Education

2401 Walnut St., Suite 102

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to affirm that our Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System report is an accurate account of sustainability programs and practices at New Mexico State University.

Since our first STARS report in 2011 (Bronze rating) and our second report in 2012 (Gold rating), we have utilized the information we learned from the report to increase our awareness and education of environmental topics on NMSU campus and continue to improve our green practices.

From the time of our second report, NMSU has implemented numerous new concepts to increase student, faculty and staff engagement in sustainability. One of the greatest impacts has been the \$12 million Energy Services Agreement that has lowered our energy costs, in some areas by 25%, thus lowering our greenhouse gas emissions.

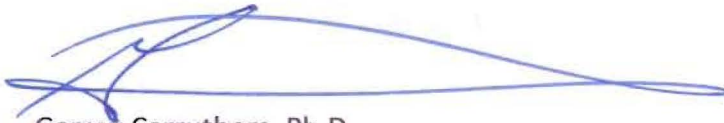
We continue to increase our class listing for sustainability focused and related classes by creating the Greening the Curriculum program, funded by the President's Office, which has added three sustainability minors to our curriculum. Our four Innovation credits show that environmental research and curriculum are tightly woven into a whole. The Engagement and Planning /Administration sections demonstrate how important diversity and outreach are to NMSU.

The Environmental Education Center (EEC), managed by the Office of Sustainability, opened in the spring of 2015 creating a place for educating the campus and local community on green buildings, climate change topics, and opening the space for webinars. Student club meetings are held at the EEC, and it serves as a place to educate students from K-12 schools across the state. With 17 LEED certified buildings system-wide, we are continuing to build green buildings that greatly contribute to lowering our greenhouse gas emissions.

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NMSU takes to heart its motto "Transforming Lives through Discovery" and we will continue to use the STARS reporting system as guiding principles for our sustainability efforts and discoveries as we look toward our vision of creating a greener university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.  
President, New Mexico State University

cc: Angela Throneberry