



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 26, 2018

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Subject: California State University, Chico STARS Submission

I am pleased to submit our second Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) campus-wide assessment of sustainability programs, policies and practices. Leadership provided by both the academic and business operations sides of the University has led to the institutionalization of sustainability as a core value. This report reflects the cross-campus collaborative efforts of faculty, staff and administrative units in that pursuit.

CSU Chico has a long history of embracing sustainability as a guiding campus ethic. President Estaban foreshadowed our path in 2002 with his signing of the Talloires Declaration, signaling a growing campus-wide commitment toward sustainable development. In 2006, President Zingg deepened the commitment by adding Sustainability as the sixth Strategic Priority to the University's Strategic Plan and becoming a founding signatory to the American College and University's President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), setting the University on a path to achieving climate neutrality. As acknowledgement of our early efforts, CSU Chico received Second Nature's Climate Leadership Award for a master's granting institution in 2014.

Our commitment to sustainability and climate neutrality was reaffirmed, with an added focus on resilience, as I joined higher education leaders from across the nation in becoming a charter signatory to the re-established Climate Leadership Commitment in 2016. These efforts have taken root within the culture of our community and continue to grow and become integral to our educational and operational mission. With this submission of our second AASHE STARS report for a Gold Rating, we continue our progress toward becoming a fully integrated sustainable and climate neutral campus, and will use this assessment as a benchmark against which to measure our continued progress. We are committed to exploring innovative campus practices, sharing with and learning from our peers, and engaging with our students on this journey.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle E. Hutchinson".

Gayle E. Hutchinson, Ed D
President

