



June 11, 2011

Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213½ North Limestone Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear AASHE Board of Directors:

It is my pleasure to submit the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. This report was prepared with the assistance of the UNLV Sustainability Council, which is co-chaired by Campus Sustainability Coordinator Tara Pike and Dr. Thomas Piechota, Associate Vice President for Interdisciplinary Research.

UNLV is committed to a comprehensive approach to sustainability throughout campus operations, research, education, administration, student life, and outreach. The development of the UNLV Sustainability Council in 2009 was instrumental in bringing together a broad representation of campus stakeholders to work collaboratively on sustainability projects. Examples of recent successes include:

- UNLV's Department of Facilities Management was selected as the winner of the 2010 Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) Award for Excellence. This prize recognized the university's efforts to elevate campus maintenance services, increase sustainability, and develop unique innovations aimed at improving customer service. The Award for Excellence is APPA's highest honor and carries with it a 5-year recognition period in which UNLV can proclaim itself as an Award of Excellence institution on all correspondence and promotions.
- UNLV recently opened two LEED-certified buildings. Greenspun Hall received a LEED Gold Certification; a significant feature is a photovoltaic array incorporated into the building's second-floor shade canopy structure. The Science and Engineering Building received a LEED Silver Certification rating by incorporating measures that achieve a 20% savings over baseline building energy performance.
- UNLV has acquired more than \$99 million in research funding in the past decade on wide-ranging subjects in the renewable energy area. Many of these research areas are related to economic, social, and environmental sustainability.
- The energy provider for Nevada – NV Energy – has provided a \$500,000 donation to develop a Solar and Renewable Energy Minor at UNLV. This interdisciplinary program is available to all undergraduate students at UNLV through two tracks – one in engineering and science and another in policy – and integrates various aspects of sustainability into the curriculum.

With the completion of the initial STARS report, we are now moving forward with the development of an Action Plan for continual improvement. I am confident that the report accurately represents sustainability efforts at UNLV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal Smatresk", written over a circular stamp.

Neal Smatresk, Ph.D.
President

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