

May 30, 2017

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education - AASHE
Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) Steering Committee
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Bard College I am pleased to share our third Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report for the three year period ending June 2017, which updates our 2014 report. We are submitting for a Gold rating. I affirm that the information presented is representative of Bard's efforts to develop the integrated issues of equity, economy and the environment.

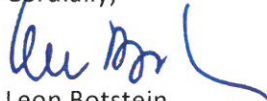
Since our first submission as a Charter participant in 2011, we have strengthened our sustainability work in Academics, Engagement, Operations and Planning/Administration:

- A. Despite a lack of campus wide recognition of sustainable learning outcomes, more than three quarters of our academic departments include courses that are related to, or focus on sustainability.
- B. Since 2013, Bard has upgraded over 9,000 light fixtures on campus resulting in annual electricity savings of about ten percent. Going forward, energy saving projects at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts should reduce the building's annual energy consumption by 15%, positioning it for recognition under the US Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge.
- C. Our students on average each volunteered nearly 40 hours each over the last year, with more than 98% of students involved in some form of co-curricular engagement during their tenure.
- D. The College has integrated principles into our Master Planning process that will help us adapt to the coming challenges and thrive in the coming decades.

Our four new areas of innovation were able to take place through unique community partnerships, nature-driven design for infrastructure, and my support for a market-based policy solution to climate change.

Substantial challenges remain as we empower our students to contribute to the great work of stabilizing the climate and enhancing the resilience and productivity of our natural systems. We will keep transdisciplinary conversations and integrated planning at the forefront of these efforts. We are grateful for AASHE's leadership and support.

Cordially,



Leon Botstein
President