



March 9, 2022

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee

Southern Oregon University demonstrates its commitment to sustainability with its vision, mission, goals and core values. It is imperative for us to reflect these values and strive towards our goals in what we teach, how we operate as a campus and how we engage with the campus community and public. Our vision sets out that SOU is an inclusive, sustainable university for the future that guides all learners to develop the knowledge, capacities, and audacity to innovate boldly and create lives of purpose.

SOU is pleased to be a continued participant in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). After receiving silver in 2019, campus sustainability has continued to flourish. Since our last STARS submissions, SOU's achievements include the following:

- introduction of new academic courses and programs including a Sustainability Major;
- new Sustainability and Equity in Purchasing Policy;
- expansion and refurbishment of SOU's on campus recycling center;
- increase in the number of solar arrays to 11 with a total capacity of 515kW including 3 net zero buildings;
- further energy efficiency measures in building upgrades and taking sustainability into account on all construction projects; and
- events and roundtables exploring the intersection between environmental issues and social justice.

The STARS reporting tool continues to spur conversations across campus, inspiring new partnerships and innovative approaches to sustainability. Additionally, STARS provides a snapshot of SOU's sustainability efforts for years past and aids the university in establishing goals for the future.

I look forward to SOU's continued participation as an AASHE member and STARS participant. I am delighted to affirm that SOU's STARS submission is an accurate and honest reflection of the university's sustainability practices, policies, and commitments. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard J. Bailey, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Richard J. Bailey, Jr., Ph.D.
President, Southern Oregon University

Southern Oregon University
Office of the President
1250 Siskiyou Blvd.
Ashland, OR. 97520

T: 541.552.6111
F: 541.552.6337