



February 5, 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher  
Education (AASHE)  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

Southern Oregon University focuses on student learning, accessibility, and civic engagement that enriches our community and bioregion. We're recognized for fostering intellectual creativity, for quality and innovation in our connected learning programs, and for the educational benefits of our unique location. SOU was the first university in Oregon—and one of the first in the nation—to offset 100 percent of energy use with clean, renewable power. We're the first university in the United States to offset 100 percent of water consumption with Water Restoration Certificates®.

SOU is pleased to be a continuing participant in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). After receiving a bronze rating in 2011, SOU has further encouraged campus sustainability by introducing new academic and co-curricular programs as well as energy conservation measures. We continue to develop and support a campus culture of sustainability. The STARS reporting tool continues to spur conversations across campus, inspiring new partnerships and innovative approaches. STARS provides a snapshot of SOU's sustainability efforts for years past and helps us establish future goals.

SOU continues to promote sustainability as a core value. We have greatly expanded opportunities for individuals to engage in campus sustainability efforts, and we have vastly improved waste management practices, diverting more than 52% of campus waste through recycling, reuse, and composting.

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.

Sincerely,

Mary Cullinan  
President

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