



February 15, 2013

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit Pacific Lutheran University's second STARS report. Our commitment to excellence with STARS has only increased since we became the first ever institution to submit a rating. As such, we are proud to note that there has been remarkable improvement since our first submission. This year PLU will be submitting at the Gold Level for the first time. This achievement is due to PLU's creation of a cross-university effort that has built on our previous experience.

Our score is reflective of the values inherent to the PLU mission, "to educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care—for other persons, for their communities, and for the earth." Most notably, our faculty organized a workshop on the pedagogy of sustainability theory. This, in combination with a research fellowship conducted by a student, Brett Rousseau, set forth a plan to define, assess and strengthen current class offerings in sustainability. PLU was not focused solely on educational efforts though. Our work with solar power, geothermal heating, conservation of natural gas and electricity, as well as policies to limit waste through "trayless" dining and banning bottled water have all led to additional credits under the Operations Category. These will surely improve even further as we progress along our commitment to carbon neutrality by 202, as spelled out in the College and University Presidents' Climate Change Commitment, to which PLU was one of the first dozen signatories.

The PLU Office of Sustainability has worked diligently over the past eight months to unite our campus community to create a complete picture of sustainability. Together with the Sustainability Committee we have been able to provide strong direction and coordinate efforts across PLU. The members of the Committee communicated the STARS effort and its implications to every facet of campus. In particular however, I commend the efforts of another student, Jenny Taylor, for her thoroughness, integrity, and professionalism in compiling this report. Furthermore with the in-depth review by our CFO, Dr. Sheri Tonn, as well as many other key individuals on our campus, I can fully verify that all the data contained within the report are accurate.

I would like to thank AASHE for providing this framework. With it we have benefited not only by identifying our own strengths and opportunities, but also by the collection of best practices from throughout the country. STARS is a switchboard of communication, and the field of sustainability has benefited greatly from it. We at PLU look forward to continuing to push the boundaries of sustainability in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Krise".

Thomas W. Krise, Ph.D.
President