



Office of the President

P. O. Box 3300 • Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1265

April 13, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Raritan Valley Community College, I am pleased to submit the results of our campus-wide sustainability assessment for the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). I affirm that this is an accurate assessment. As a charter institution for STARS, RVCC enthusiastically supports this comprehensive campus sustainability program for assessing and evaluating our sustainability practices. This process provides perspective on our strengths and challenges as we strive to become a more sustainable institution.

Raritan Valley Community College is a public college serving New Jersey's Somerset and Hunterdon counties. With a suburban campus situated between two tributaries of the North Branch of the Raritan River, and with a growing population of over 11,000 full and part-time students commuting to campus, RVCC faces significant sustainability challenges.

RVCC has earned a very solid Silver STARS rating, only the second in New Jersey. RVCC's 2013-2017 strategic plan emphasizes the importance of campus diversity and affordability, and we are pleased that the STARS program recognizes our accomplishments in these areas. The College is particularly proud of its Robeson Institute, Holocaust Institute, and extensive program of culturally diverse events organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The college's academic offerings mirror this diversity and also reflect growing interest in environmental issues.

The College firmly established its environmental leadership in 2009, when it was the first community college in the nation to sign an environmental stewardship agreement with the EPA. In accordance with this agreement, the College has taken numerous actions over the past five years to become more environmentally sustainable. RVCC has reduced its scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by over 50% since 2005. As of December, the College is purchasing 100% windpower electricity. RVCC boasts a cogeneration plant, a 446kW solar installation, electric car charging stations, a green roof, and a new student center (to be certified as LEED Gold) complete with a green wall and a rainwater harvesting system. RVCC has committed to build all new construction to LEED Silver requirements or better. The new Science building addition will be LEED Silver, and the College plans for the new Workforce Development building to achieve LEED Gold.

RVCC will continue to look for new and innovative ways to increase its sustainability and to demonstrate this leadership in the classroom, across campus, and throughout the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. McDonough".

Dr. Michael McDonough  
RVCC President