



August 9, 2011

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213½ North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

RE: Rio Salado College STARS© Report Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to affirm that the information submitted in the attached report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is a complete and accurate representation of Rio Salado College's sustainability initiatives.

Rio Salado College (Rio) is proud to achieve a SILVER STARS© rating, an accomplishment that reflects the college's strong commitment to sustainability. For Rio, caring about the environment represents a lifestyle change that blends into daily routines. The college has adopted several measures to think green and beyond. As part of the college's evolving strategic plan, we are committed to the principles of sustainability including socio-cultural, environmental, and economic dynamics. We encourage staff, faculty, and students to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Rio's approach to curriculum includes infusing sustainability themes into general education and career and technical programs, creating career and transfer pathways tied to sustainability. Additionally, Rio Salado College offers an Associate in Applied Science degree in Sustainable Food Systems and Academic Certificate in Sustainability and Ecological Literacy.

In 2009, Rio Salado College was named *America's Greenest Campus* for having the highest average of carbon reduction per person. The contest, sponsored by Climate Culture, was the first nationwide challenge among colleges to reduce the carbon footprints of their students, faculty, alumni and staff. In addition to the greening of our college, Rio was honored to be a Charter Signatory for the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment and a member of its Leadership Circle.

I welcome Rio Salado College's continued participation in STARS as we strive to improve the college's environmental footprint and to foster a culture of eco-literacy and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bustamante".

Chris Bustamante, Ed.D.  
President

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