

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

May 18, 2021

To the AASHE STARS Steering Committee and staff:

Agnes Scott College is very pleased to enter our third STARS submission on May 21, 2021. By this letter, I am affirming that the Center for Sustainability staff, in partnership with the Office of Institutional Research, has provided an accurate and comprehensive summary of our sustainability efforts since beginning the program in 2007.

Following the submission of our second STARS report in 2018, Agnes Scott was proud to be recognized by AASHE in the 2019 Sustainable Campus Index for data accuracy. Our sustainability staff has ensured that the data submitted in this report is as accurate as our 2018 report, despite the implications of COVID-19 on campus operations and data collection. Our goal is to give the most accurate representation of our sustainability efforts during normal college operations, and for that reason, we are reporting operational data that was not impacted by the closure of the college beginning in March 2020. For our programmatic data, we have included both information on programs under business-as-usual scenarios and updates on how these programs were impacted by COVID-19.

We are delighted to report that the college's current score ranks us at the STARS Gold level. Despite the increase in our score from 2018, we know there is always room for improvement with our sustainability programs. The STARS process has continued to help us focus on setting new goals for the next three to five years.


Since signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007, Agnes Scott has:

- Set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2037 and reduced emissions of scopes 1 and 2 by 40 percent to date;
- Completed a landmark Climate Resilience Plan in partnership with the City of Decatur;
- Installed a quarter megawatt of solar power and two geothermal HVAC systems;
- Pioneered the use of a Green Revolving Fund, raising \$1 million from donors combined with \$1 million in energy savings to invest more than \$2 million in energy and water efficiency;
- Developed an interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability studies minor with the number of students declaring the minor reaching a record 15 students;
- Created a Center for Sustainability, unique for a college of our size, which works to integrate sustainability into both the college's operations and its curriculum and houses at least two full-time staff and five or more student interns and volunteers during each semester.

Since the beginning of our sustainability program, we have empowered our students to be an integral part of our sustainability team. Every one of the sustainability achievements above can be traced back to a student internship or work-study project. And many of the accomplishments documented in STARS can be as well. We have trained a new generation of sustainability professionals who are equipped with the skills needed to tackle the sustainability challenges of their generation.

Thank you again for providing the excellent guidance of STARS – it is truly a model for tracking institution-wide change in higher education.

Sincerely,


Leocadia I. Zak
President