



AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
THE WORLD FOR WOMEN

February 14, 2012

Office of the President

To the AASHE STARS Steering Committee and staff:

Agnes Scott College is pleased to enter its first STARS submission on February 14, 2012. By signing this letter, I am affirming that the information submitted is an accurate and comprehensive summary of our sustainability efforts since beginning our program in 2007. Agnes Scott appreciates the leadership of AASHE in establishing this ranking system which will, no doubt, help us to strengthen our efforts.

The college's Office of Sustainability has found the process of completing the STARS submission productive in a number of ways:

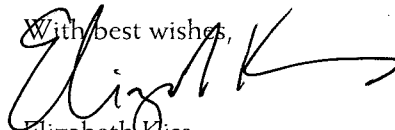
- While sustainability has always been a community effort at Agnes Scott, the sustainability staff members have worked closely with even more students, staff and faculty during this process, and learned many new details about the college's programs and operations.
- Partnerships have been strengthened in order to confirm and document practices and policies, including our innovative partnerships with the City of Decatur, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Southface Energy Institute.
- Many members of the campus community have learned that we are doing even more than they realized.
- We are now challenging ourselves to do more in order to meet the STARS goals that were beyond our grasp at this point in time. For example, while we have launched an Environmental and Sustainability Studies minor and made other important strides in our curriculum, we do not have the systems in place to accurately "count" the courses that are focused on, or related to, sustainability. We plan to address this task before the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Overall we found the STARS system to be a good way to assess what we have done so far, and to challenge us for the future. There are some sections that we think could be modified for more accurate ranking. The section where this was most obvious to us was "Operations – Waste." The requirement that we use a baseline year of 2005 (before Agnes Scott launched its ambitious waste reduction and diversion efforts) meant that, even though we have gone from a 28% to a 73% waste diversion rate over the past three years, we received little or no credit in this area. We would be glad to share our thoughts on adjusting the approach to that section so that results could be more accurately reported.

In fact, our staff would be delighted to provide input for the future of STARS in any way that will be helpful to AASHE. Please call on us if we can help.

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

With best wishes,



Elizabeth Kiss
President