



June 25, 2015

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Kansas, I am pleased to present our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System report. I affirm the information herein as true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Since first being recognized with a STARS Bronze rating in 2012, the University of Kansas has taken steps to implement elements of our Campus Sustainability Plan, *Building Sustainable Traditions*, which is aligned with the goals of STARS. Through the efforts of our faculty, students, and staff, I am happy to report that the University of Kansas has improved our provisional rating to Silver.

From an academic perspective, we have continued to invest in research that addresses our strategic priorities, which includes developing more sustainable sources of energy while building stronger communities. Our faculty development program, the Oread Project, is bringing together faculty from diverse disciplines to integrate sustainability into the curriculum and collaborate on new initiatives. And our KU Core Curriculum and experiential programs are developing future leaders who understand and appreciate diversity, social responsibility, and ethical behavior so they can contribute to a more just and sustainable society.

In terms of campus operations, we continue to improve efficiencies through recycling, surplus, and energy conservation initiatives, while reducing our environmental impact through more sustainable landscaping and land use practices. Our Dining Services unit is a leader on campus and among its peers, bringing local and organic offerings to campus, collecting food waste for compost, and incorporating sustainability into employee training programs. And new standards in design and construction are helping us build greener, more efficient facilities.

Meanwhile, we've taken important steps toward creating a healthier campus environment, and one that is supportive for all faculty, staff, and students regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. The Diversity Leadership Council has prepared for a campus climate study, which will help us better evaluate our diversity and equity programs and find ways to improve those offerings. And our ongoing classification and market study is helping us provide more equitable compensation for staff.

The university is committed to the vision outlined in our sustainability plan – fostering a community that is engaged, adaptive, and efficient – and making sustainability an inherent part of what we do every day. Continuing on this path will allow us to better meet the bold aspirations we have for the University of Kansas and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Gray-Little
Chancellor