

February 2, 2012

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

As Chancellor 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 abilities.

I am extremely proud of the achievements KU has made thus far in our journey toward a more sustainable campus. Our rich history of environmental awareness and engagement includes student-led initiatives to promote sustainable practices and preserve the urban ecology of our campus alongside interdisciplinary educational experiences in one of the oldest environmental studies programs in the nation. More recently we have focused institutional investments in energy and water conservation, and supported research initiatives spanning from studying the effects of climate change to identifying injustices in modern society.

While the STARS process has highlighted our strengths and successes, it has also helped us identify new opportunities, and I am fully committed to using these findings to continue advancing our efforts. This commitment is reflected in our new sustainability and strategic plans. Framed around the principles of STARS, the campus sustainability plan I commissioned in 2010 reaches across all areas of our campus to provide guidance for integrating more sustainable practices into our administration and operations while advancing sustainability through education and research. Our 2012 strategic plan further supports those efforts through key research initiatives focusing on sustainability and energy, health and wellness, and building stronger communities.

As a public institution, we have a responsibility to those we serve to operate in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner. As a major research university, we have a unique opportunity to make new discoveries that will advance sustainability in Kansas and beyond. We must elevate the expectations we have for ourselves as a community – finding ways to maximize the benefits of the work we do at KU, while minimizing any financial, environmental and societal costs. I am dedicated to the success of these efforts and to making sustainability an inherent part of everything we do at KU.

Sincerely,



Bernadette Gray-Little
Chancellor