



FROM THE DESK OF

President Taylor Eighmy

November 27, 2019

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 13103

RE: The University of Texas at San Antonio STARS Assessment Executive Letter

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the University of Texas at San Antonio's 2019-2020 STARS submission. Our report reflects the progress we have made in advancing sustainability within our campus and in our community.

UTSA has established a culture of sustainability that permeates throughout the institution, from featuring sustainability in our Strategic Plan and newly adopted Campus Master Plan to incorporating sustainability efforts into the operation and planning of all university business endeavors and academic pursuits.

In daily practice, UTSA supports programs and policies in water re-use, recycling and waste reduction, alternative energy, cultural sustainability, and research in sustainable topics.

I would like to highlight a few of the sustainability accomplishments and initiatives that we have recently undertaken on our campus and with community partners:

- The UTSA Office of Sustainability was re-established in February 2019 with a university commitment fund of \$0.33 per semester credit hour to be allocated toward university-wide sustainability initiatives.
- UTSA has begun plans to develop multiple engineered water quality treatments for its new 5-acre Downtown Campus extension, which is adjacent to the San Pedro Creek Culture Park, which will convey all of UTSA's storm water.
- Through a grant from the City of San Antonio, UTSA will research and establish a low impact development bioswale on its Main Campus to treat 9.5 acres of previously untreated storm water runoff.

- UTSA is a member of the San Antonio 2030 District, a collaborative network of leaders who have committed to reduce the city's downtown business district energy use, water use, and transportation-related carbon emissions all while stimulating economic growth.

Our sustainability efforts are further complimented by the UTSA Sustainability Council, which advises senior leadership, and our newly established Office of Inclusive Excellence, which seeks to promote an inclusive community of learners and an appreciation of diverse perspectives as they relate to sustainable goals for the university.

Sustainability plays an important role in our bold vision for UTSA as a university of the future. Every year, we renew our commitment and dedication to enhancing policies, practices and programs that further advance the ideals of sustainably at UTSA, in our community and beyond.

With appreciation,



Taylor Eighmy
President



Mei Lani May
Director, Office of Sustainability