

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of the Chancellor

*309 Behmler Hall
600 East 4th Street
Morris, MN 56267-2134*

*320-589-6020
Fax 320-589-6399*

May 28, 2015

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite B500
Denver, CO 80202


Dear Meghan,

I am pleased to submit the AASHE STARS (STARS) inventory for the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM). As a pilot participant and charter member of the STARS program, we are glad to see this survey recognized as a national peer-reviewed framework for assessing sustainability progress on college campuses. The STARS inventory provides the Morris campus with an important tool as we assess progress, and it allows us to build upon the foundation established by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents policy on "Sustainability and Energy Efficiency," adopted in 2004.

Morris has deep connections to the land and the people of Minnesota that reach back 150 years, to the founding of the first educational institution here, an American Indian Boarding School. Throughout our history, we have responded to the needs of the people in this region and their aspirations. Morris is unique: we are the state's only public liberal arts college and we are proud of our role – as an undergraduate-focused institution that nurtures leaders who are prepared to ask and answer the big questions of our time.

And we are proud of the sustainability progress we have made as we strive to develop the potential of our natural resources and our people. In 2015, we were recognized as one of the first Green Ribbon Schools in the United States by the U.S. Department of Education. And, in 2014, we were awarded the Second Nature Climate Leadership Award for baccalaureate institutions. The prairie winds produce a majority of our campus electricity. We have seen new sustainability-infused research, classes, artistic productions, community engagement and creative works that witness the transformation taking place here. As an evolving living and learning laboratory, we continue our efforts to provide an authentic "renewable, sustainable education."

Sincerely,


Jacqueline Johnson
Chancellor