

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of the Chancellor

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February 18, 2011

Paul Rowland, Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite B500
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Rowland,

I am pleased to submit the AASHE STARS (STARS) inventory for the University of Minnesota, Morris (Morris). As a pilot participant and charter member of the STARS program, we are glad to see this instrument come to fruition as a nationally-recognized, 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 grows 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. The prairie winds produce a majority of our campus electricity. And an on-campus CHP biomass gasification facility uses local biomass to provide thermal energy while injecting financial capital back into our regional economy. 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