

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of the Chancellor

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February 27, 2018

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

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 STARS gain status 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 reaches 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.

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 2017, we were awarded the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Award for our efforts in community resilience building. In 2015, we were recognized as one of the first Green Ribbon Schools in the United States by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2014, we were awarded the Second Nature Climate Leadership Award. We are modeling how clean energy can work in communities across the United States, and especially in rural Minnesota -- 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 will continue our efforts to provide students an authentic sustainability-informed education.

Sincerely,



Michelle Behr
Chancellor