



Wisdom to make a difference.

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February 19, 2015

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 901
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Committee:

Keene State College is pleased to submit its STARS self-assessment for the 2013-14 year. As President, I affirm that the information submitted by the College's many contributors across campus is an accurate documentation of our sustainability efforts at Keene State.

As New Hampshire's public liberal arts college, Keene State College has a mandate to serve the needs of its community. Included in this responsibility is our stewardship of our shared resources and the adherence across all areas of the Campus to the principles and practices of sustainability.

Keene State's efforts to promote sustainability can be found far beyond our recycling bins and Green Bike racks. The College is committed to ensuring that all new buildings are built to LEED standards. In fact, our newest classroom building, the Technology Design and Safety Center, achieved LEED-Platinum Certification by the US Green Building Council in 2013. Keene State is currently in the design phases for what will be the College's most energy efficient and low-emissions residence hall in our history, scheduled to open in 2016.

The College's commitment to sustainability is evident in its curricula, research and community service and campus operations. From the CIRP Freshman Survey we know that Keene State College students arrive more environmentally aware than the average college student. We meet their expectations by promoting sustainability through campus activities, community engagement and global awareness. Examples include:

- Architecture students conduct home energy audits
- Economic students construct livable wage models
- Environmental Science students research the benefits of bio-diesel fuels
- *Communicorps* students design energy efficient buildings for regional not-for-profits
- Sociology students evaluate the local homeless shelter needs and success
- Health Science students prepare dietary programs for area schools and nursing homes
- Athletic Training students design fitness programs for area schools
- Institutional Research's Climate Surveys determine how the College is perceived by diverse populations and presents its findings widely across campus

Keene State College students contribute 75,000 hours of service to our community. The College is a Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classified Campus since its inception in 2006, and is recurrently listed in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Updating our STARS report has engaged faculty and staff across the College in summarizing progress over the past few years, Keene State College continues efforts to reduce our environmental impacts in our

community and region, while enhancing our sustainable practices across the entire footprint of this campus. With this important submission, Keene State joins alongside other colleges and universities in supporting the health of our environment while confronting climate change challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne E. Huot", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne E. Huot, Ph.D.
President