



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Neal J. Smatresk, *President*

May 12, 2014

The Association for the Advancement of
Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2008, the University of North Texas (UNT) became the first major public university in Texas to sign the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). In February 2009, UNT created the Office of Sustainability, now UNT Sustainability. These achievements demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, becoming more efficient and effective in our daily practices and our endeavors as a leading research university. UNT strives to generate cohesion, provide information and support, and encourage behavior change to address environmental, economic, and social challenges. Because of our efforts, UNT is regularly recognized as a national leader in sustainability and a powerful agent of change. Therefore, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of UNT's second STARS report and the achievement of a silver rating.

UNT has a three-pronged approach to its sustainability vision: ensure environmental, economic, and social sustainability. We will continue to work to increase cutting-edge sustainability research, expand sustainability-related curriculum, support community engagement, improve conservation efforts, establish sustainable investment options, and strengthen efforts to become a carbon-neutral institution.

The University of North Texas appreciates the work done by AASHE to advance sustainability in higher education with the creation of the STARS reporting tool, which facilitates UNT's commitment to benchmark and measure its progress. I would like to thank all members of the UNT family, as they played an important role to determine the environmental impact of the university. UNT is proud of its silver rating, but also acknowledges that these efforts have room for growth in the university's energies to achieve its sustainability goals.

Sincerely,



Neal Smatresk
President

Office of the President

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