



Office of the President

West Chester University | West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383 | 610-436-2471 | www.wcupa.edu

7 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to again support West Chester University's participation in AASHE's *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System* program with this, our 2020 submission. The team of staff and students in our Office of Sustainability has collaborated with colleagues from across campus to compile the information necessary to assess our progress, prepare this report, and check our findings for accuracy and completeness.

This submission documents our ongoing commitment to environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Among other accomplishments, we're proud of our work in these areas:

- As a **community of educators** our faculty, students, and staff have created new learning opportunities by developing a Pathway Certificate Program focused on sustainability, an interdisciplinary sustainability minor program, and discipline-specific programs, such as our Nutrition Department's Sustainable Food Systems Management concentration.
- West Chester University highlights our commitment to sustainability in our current **Strategic Plan, Pathways to Student Success**, where it is one of five mutually reinforcing areas of focus.
- Forty seven percent of building space on campus is heated and cooled by our energy-efficient, low-carbon **geo-exchange system**, one of the largest such systems on a university campus in North America.
- Our **Brandywine Project for Sustainability Education**, launched in 2016 with WCU's first *Sustainability in the Curriculum* workshop, has to date trained 93 WCU faculty members to develop courses that address sustainability and in recent years has expanded to include workshops designed for students and staff.
- Our sustainability efforts strengthen **our institutional commitment to civic and community engagement**, from our organic gardens' contributions to the WCU Resource Pantry, to our membership in the Climate Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, our collaboration with the West Chester Green Team (a coalition of local non-profit environmental organizations), and the thousands of hours our students, faculty and staff commit to volunteering with civic initiatives in Chester County.

Preparing our *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System* submission this year allowed our community of staff, faculty, students, and local partners to document our work, understand our strengths and the challenges we face, and identify obstacles that remain for us to address in the coming years. We are proud to be a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and to participate in this ongoing effort to promote and celebrate higher education's contributions to addressing climate change and achieving sustainability goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher M. Fiorentino".

Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.
President, West Chester University of Pennsylvania