



Office of the President

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

March 7, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter I am happy to submit West Chester University's 2019 submission to AASHE's *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System*. The Director and Graduate Assistant for Data Monitoring and Analysis in our Office of Sustainability have worked with colleagues from across campus to compile the information necessary to prepare this report and check it for accuracy.

This submission highlights West Chester University's ongoing commitment to sustainability in several important ways:

- Sustainability remains one of five priority areas in **West Chester University's Strategic Plan, Pathways to Student Success**.
- Our **Climate Action Plan** sets a carbon neutrality by 2025 goal and established seventy four objectives in six key areas of our university's operations: Energy and Buildings, Transportation, Purchasing, Solid Waste & Recycling, Dining, and Curricular / Co-Curricular / Research / Public Engagement.
- Our investment in one of the largest **geo-exchange heating and cooling systems** in North America has helped reduce our fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions and permitted us to decommission a coal-fired boiler plant.
- Construction begins this year on our campus's new **Science and Engineering Center / The Commons Building**. Like four other major academic buildings on campus, this building has been designed to LEED Silver standards.
- This year West Chester University, thanks to our commitment to cover 30% of our annual electricity consumption with Green-e Certified Renewable Energy Credits, became a US Environmental Protection Agency **Green Power Partner**.
- Our **Brandywine Project for Sustainability Education** program has grown to include workshops specifically designed for faculty (over 50 sustainability focused courses have been developed or updated through this program), staff, and students.

Preparing our *Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System* submission this year allowed our community of staff, faculty, students, and local partners to document our accomplishments, understand our strengths and constraints, and identify challenges that remain for us to address in the coming years.

Sincerely,

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

Chris M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.
President