



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 6, 2019

AASHE
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Colorado State University STARS 2.1 Report Submission

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Colorado State University, I am pleased to forward our institution's 2019 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. With a provisional STARS 2.1 rating of 88.17, we are very proud to submit a provisional STARS platinum rating for the third consecutive report.

Colorado State University's reputation as an innovative national leader in sustainability was a significant factor in my decision to become the institution's 15th President in July 2019. We live at a time when our world faces unprecedented environmental challenges. Accepting stewardship of an institution that is an internationally respected leader in both sustainability research and the practice of sustainability was incredibly important to me. I know that I speak for our entire campus community when I affirm that we are committed—as individuals and as an institution—to doing all we can to address and mitigate the risks we face.

I also assure those reviewing our report that I bring more than lip-service to CSU's powerful work on sustainability. I have actively worked to support our environment for many years, most recently as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of West Virginia. And I believe that the intimate experience of our natural world is essential to our human experience, whether we seek peace and solace or excitement and energy. I am proud to be part of an institution and a community that believes the same.

This STARS report highlights work of Colorado State University's faculty, staff, and students that began well before I arrived on our campus. It reflects an institution that has sustainability woven into every aspect of its ethos. For 150 years, Colorado State has conducted leading-edge environmental research and provided a rich academic environment in which students learn, embrace, and foster the value of sustainability from an environmental, social and economic lens.

Colorado State has not rested since its 2017 STARS report. Our institution has developed and implemented an innovative Ram Food Recovery Program to redistribute food items when deemed safe to persons within the campus community, addressing both food insecurity and food waste. One student's idea led to our campus creating several student-managed apiaries on campus, as well as pollinator-friendly gardens, resulting in our certification as a Bee Campus

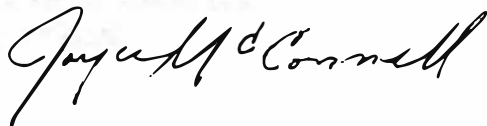
USA in 2018. Since 2017, we have added more than 335,000 square feet of new LEED Platinum- or LEED Gold-certified classrooms, research space, and offices. And this fall, Colorado State was re-certified as a Platinum-level bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Our faculty, staff, and students—both graduate and undergraduate—continue to probe sustainability issues in fields as diverse as atmospheric science, anthropology, energy production, economics, and biology. We generate information that needs urgently to be shared, whether it is diagnostic, predictive, or prescriptive. We uncover new challenges every day. And like other STARS-reporting institutions, we are passionately committed to addressing those challenges, solving the problems they bring, developing solutions, and generating new ideas that will offer all of us hope moving forward.

I am confident that the score contained within this report—compiled and vetted by a cross-campus review board—accurately represents the sustainability efforts and values of Colorado State University. We believe it is a fair and comprehensive assessment of our progress.

Finally, on behalf of Colorado State University, I offer my appreciation and thanks to ASSHE for its leadership in assessing the sustainability performance of our institutions of higher education. Please know this work is deeply appreciated by our students and their generational peers. They are acutely aware of how rapidly our world is changing and of how many of those changes will be their inheritance and their responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce E. McConnell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joyce E. McConnell
President