



WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BASSIS
PRESIDENT

June 9, 2011

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

Re: Westminster College STARS submission

On behalf of Westminster College in Salt Lake City, I am delighted to submit the College's first STARS self-assessment. This comprehensive analysis of campus operations, curriculum, and engagement represents the work of dozens of students, faculty, and staff. The information contained in it is both an accurate accounting of our current sustainability efforts and an enlightening roadmap to future improvements.

Since I signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007, our campus community has worked to incorporate sustainability into all facets of campus life. We have established a Sustainability Task Force, completed three greenhouse gas inventories, and developed a climate action plan. The STARS assessment represents an important step in this work, as it incorporates not only climate concerns, but the social and economic aspects of sustainability as well. Through our 2004 strategic planning process, Westminster identified three areas of widespread student and faculty interest and expertise: environment, diversity, and civic engagement. I am pleased to see our work in each of these arenas contribute to our overall STARS rating.

I am perhaps most proud that the STARS effort at Westminster was completed largely by our talented and passionate students. Under the direction of our Environmental Center, four undergraduate Campus Sustainability Fellows led groups of their peers in data collection and analysis. While gathering information from faculty and staff across campus, these students helped establish sustainability as a campus priority. Their work represents the problem-based, engaged learning we prize at Westminster.

Thank you to AASHE for providing a structure by which we can both map our current sustainability undertakings and prioritize future efforts.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Bassis
President

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