

February 25, 2016

AASHE STARS Steering Committee  
1526 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I am pleased to provide our submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) and affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, it is factual and accurate.

Sustainability is an integral aspect of our mission as a leader in education, research, and outreach. UNL is committed to reasonable, cost effective efforts in sustainability and will continue to support and invest in them. Our efforts toward sustainability over the past few years have proven this and returned remarkable dividends. Moreover, our faculty, staff and students continue to develop, lead and support programs that create a more livable, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive community around us.

Since our last STARS submission there are a number of projects and recognitions that have further improved and elevated the overall sustainability enterprise at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

- In the Fall of 2014 UNL started using energy from the new Central Renewable Energy System (CRES) plant to heat and cool an estimated 1.8 million square feet of space in our new Nebraska Innovation Campus. The plant takes reclaimed water from the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant and pipes it to a heat exchange facility.
- Our faculty members continue to be innovative with unique course designs to promote sustainability teaching and practice in the academia. Professor Tim Wentz, together with Facilities Maintenance and Operations staff, offered a "Building Energy Assessment and Benchmarking" course that provided our students with experiential learning in conducting building energy assessments and benchmarking. The course serves as an excellent example of developing campus as a living laboratory.
- The wellness program at UNL was recently recognized by the American Diabetes Association for outstanding work promoting wellness on campus. The Office of Sustainability and Wellness Program teamed up last Fall semester for a "Wellness on Wheels" program and spoke with hundreds of faculty and staff on how to live a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.
- UNL was recently honored by the League of American Bicyclists as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly University.
- Our research teams at the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, Public Policy Center and Drought Mitigation Center continue to improve technology and advance our scientific understanding of issues relating to the environment, food security, and social justice.

Our Silver rating in the report reflects the efforts we have made to improve our status and develop initiatives, actions, and people capable of addressing some of the most pressing sustainability issues of

the new century. Our rating also draws attention to the journey ahead of us in becoming a more sustainable campus.

I want to thank AASHE for providing the opportunity and leadership to track our sustainability performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Perlman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harvey Perlman  
Chancellor