



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 9, 2019

AASHE STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of Auburn University, it is my pleasure to submit the results of our third comprehensive sustainability performance assessment using the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This report was prepared by the Office of Sustainability and the Academic Sustainability Programs office in collaboration with faculty, staff, and students across campus. The Office of Audit, Compliance, and Privacy has completed an independent, internal audit of this submission and I affirm this report is an accurate and honest description of our efforts.

The international sustainability movement is a global force for positive change. Higher education is broadly recognized as one of the most important and influential sectors of society for catalyzing the sustainability transformation. Auburn University, by inspiring innovation and creativity within our community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, is committed to doing our part to respond to the challenges and seize the opportunities that present themselves in these extraordinary times.

More than ten years ago, Auburn recognized the importance of sustainability and its relevance to our land grant mission. Conversations began in 2004 among deans and faculty members, and since then our efforts have gained momentum and were institutionally formalized in 2008. In 2009, Auburn became a signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. We created a Sustainability Policy in 2011 to further guide institutional efforts. The policy declares sustainability to be a core institutional value and commits us to infusing within our teaching, research, outreach, and operations the principles, concepts, practices, and ethics of sustainability.

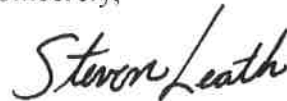
STARS provides us with the key performance indicators by which we can measure our performance and progress, and gives us a shared framework for collaboration with our peer institutions for our mutual benefit and the benefit to society. According to the Princeton Review, more than sixty percent of prospective college students and their parents consider an institution's commitment to sustainability in academics and operations as a factor in their decision-making.

STARS declares and makes visible Auburn's sustainability story, which helps us attract students committed to making a difference in the world.

This submission reveals both areas where Auburn has progressed and where we have opportunities for significant next steps. Upon receiving a formal declaration of our score by AASHE STARS, we will use this report to inform ongoing conversations about how we can most effectively continue the transformational effort to serve the state of Alabama and the broader global community by preparing our students and innovating new operational approaches, all in service to our land grant mission.

Auburn is proud to be part of a global community of AASHE members and STARS champions, working to improve the environmental, economic, societal, and individual wellbeing conditions for people and all life on Earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Leath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Steven Leath
President