

January 8, 2013

STARS Steering Committee  
1536 Wynkoop Street  
Suite B500  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

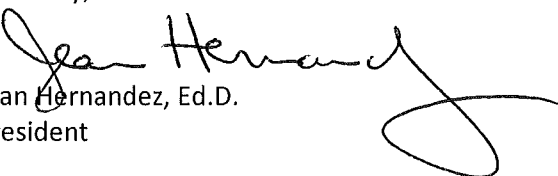
I am writing this letter to affirm the accuracy of the submittal of STARS data for Edmonds Community College. Edmonds Community College has been actively engaged in furthering sustainability at the college through campus practices and integration into programs and courses since 2006 when the Sustainability Initiative was chartered. The mission of sustainability initiative is: In fulfilling the Edmonds Community College Mission, the Sustainability Initiative strives to infuse sustainable practices throughout all aspects of the college's operation and facilitates preparation of our students and community for sustainable careers, citizenship and quality of life. The college takes a broad approach to sustainability and defines it to include economic wellness, social justice, human health, and biodiversity and ecological integrity (as per the Washington Center's definition of sustainability).

The college performed a sustainability assessment in 2007-2008 using the Good Company's assessment framework. We are excited to complete this more comprehensive assessment (STARS) that includes both qualitative and quantitative data for criteria that is quickly becoming the norm in higher education.

Highlights from our report include a strong showing in the Education & Research category, with particular strengths in our co-curriculum education programs (student Green Team is an example) and our integration of sustainability across a number of departments in our curriculum programs bridging the divide between the liberal arts and professional-technical. While we are making progress on operations, our results in this category certainly show us that we have room for much improvement. Recently, faculty/staff/students have been building out a "Sustainable Practices Hotspot" on campus: a living lab, developed and used by several different departments, students, and the community to experiment with emerging sustainable methodologies as applied to different disciplines. It also serves as a demo site for these projects for an even larger number of students, staff, and community members (some projects are funded by our student-administered Campus Green Fund). What began as a couple of garden beds and grounds composting now includes bee hives, two green roofs, multiple garden beds for edibles, a cultural kitchen, grounds composting (that has been distributed out to the community), rainwater catchment, and solar power generation. On Campus Sustainability Day in October of this past year, we bottled and sold our first honey harvest to the community, which sold out within 20 minutes! In addition, we are enthusiastic about joining the national RecycleMania competition for the first time this year, which will provide us with valuable information about, and hopefully measurable progress towards, waste reduction, recycling, and composting on campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the STARS, an innovative program establishing much-needed standards regarding campus sustainability. We will use our results to improve our sustainability performance in the future.

Sincerely,



Jean Hernandez, Ed.D.  
President