



December 3, 2012

Mr. Paul Rowland, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Rowland:

It is a pleasure for me to write this letter of endorsement for the Hope College Sustainability Advisory Committee as a complementary piece to the completed Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) questionnaire from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). With this letter, I validate the Hope College report.

Hope College has long been a supporter of sustainability efforts as a demonstration of our commitment to be good stewards of the creation which has been entrusted to us. We do this for scientific, spiritual, social, and political reasons. Although our initial efforts were more fledgling, the Hope College Sustainability Advisory Committee has gained real traction on campus with its concerted efforts during the past several years. The STARS questionnaire from AASHE is a valuable resource for assisting us in our campus-wide efforts.

I have been very pleased and impressed with Hope's efforts under the leadership of Mr. Greg Maybury, our director of operations at the college, and Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger, a professor of religion who is a prolific writer on our responsibility to care for God's creation through wise stewardship and sustainability efforts. As one might expect, our efforts have been enthusiastically received by the engagement of many campus students and groups. Together, we are a better institution for our attentiveness to the efforts which help to preserve the abundance of natural resources with which our country has been blessed.

We look forward to the future with continued efforts toward sustainability. Many of these can be documented. Others, perhaps every bit as important, are achieved without documentation or fanfare. About this there can be no doubt—the college is interested in and will continue its efforts toward sustainability initiatives. We are deeply grateful to AASHE and the STARS questionnaire for providing a catalyst for ever-enhanced efforts on our campus and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to be accountable for what we have done and to envision what we may still do in the future at the local, national, and international levels.

Cordially,

James E. Bultman
President

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