## I am proud to submit Eastern Connecticut State University’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report on sustainability.

## Eastern was a signatory of the Talloires Declaration in 2004, and is also a signatory of the 2007 President’s Climate Change Commitment. Eastern is doing its part to find solutions. Our efforts to conserve energy, utilize renewable energy sources, reduce emissions, and limit the adverse environmental impact of our campus operations are aligned with our commitment to educating our students. Our mission as a public institution is also to serve the state of Connecticut, its residents, and its businesses. This can be done in a way that allows us to reallocate valuable financial resources from paying utility bills to hiring faculty, funding student support initiatives, and securing the latest technology and equipment.

Our approach to energy conservation and sustainability has been comprehensive and three-pronged. It blends our administrative efforts to become a green campus with community outreach and academics. We combine excellent facilities management and planning — construction, conservation and operations — with sustainable energy studies, including multidisciplinary academic programs and an Endowed Chair in Sustainable Energy Studies. The University also operates an active Institute for Sustainable Energy, which engages in outstanding outreach and public policy discourse with communities, constituencies, and energy policy stakeholders across the state and the region.

To provide campus-wide coordination and advocacy of our sustainability initiatives, the University has created a Green Campus Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Facilities Management and Planning, and includes excellent support and participation from the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the academic community.

The STARS submission was coordinated by the Director of Facilities Management and Planning, with input from campus leaders in various departments. The STARS rating will help us evaluate our sustainability efforts to date and will help us to ensure that we remain on track. We look forward to the evaluation and will use the document to move our efforts going forward.

Elsa M. Núñez

President