

February 25, 2022

AASHE-STARs Steering Committee
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARs Steering Committee,

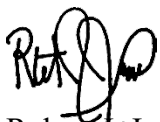
It is my pleasure to affirm the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARs). Staff from our Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) coordinated the data collection process with invaluable assistance from Campus Facilities & Services. Our current Gold STARs rating demonstrates our ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of this generation of students while preserving the environment for future generations.

Since our last submission we have continued to make strides in making our campus more sustainable. We have constructed two solar farms, totaling 75 acres, in support of on-campus clean energy generation. We are proud to have earned Silver Bike Friendly University status, Tree Campus and Bee Campus USA designations, and the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge championship four years in a row.

Illinois continues to be a worldwide leader in cutting-edge research in sustainable fields. Our Energy Scholars have pioneered projects related to sustainable energy generation, storage, and infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather and temperatures. Our Water Scholars have taken a lead in ensuring safe, clean drinking water while balancing the needs for increased food and power production. Our Sustainable Agriculture scholars have made breakthroughs into modeling plant-based food and fuel that are more efficient and adaptable to climate change. In addition, our Global Climate Change Scholars continue to study human-caused climate and weather effects — and to research and implement solutions for a more resilient future.

As a premier institution of higher education, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a profound responsibility to model sustainable education, research, and activities. I am confident we will remain a leader in this regard for years to come. Thank you for your diligent efforts in uniting campus sustainability resources and networks.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor