

Michael A. Fitts
President of the University

October 9, 2015

Dear members of the STARS Steering Committee,

At Tulane University we've long recognized that promoting environmental sustainability is one of our most critical responsibilities. Our success in this area will shape our future and the future of the communities we serve. We also find ourselves in harmony with the holistic approach of the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). For us, sustainability includes supporting our city, New Orleans, in its revival after Hurricane Katrina. It means promoting public health, resilience and opportunities for the city's residents. It extends to our efforts in teaching, research, public service, wellness, diversity and access for low-income students. I am delighted to present the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education with Tulane's first STARS application outlining these efforts, and I certify that it accurately depicts Tulane's work in sustainability.

On the stewardship of our physical environment, Tulane long has tracked energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and recycling. The STARS application process inspired us to examine more measures of our environmental impact, including water use and total waste. Compiling this report gives us great new baselines for assessing our progress in all of these areas.

On the nurturing of sustainable communities, the application describes one of the most distinctive and transformative endeavors we undertook after Katrina: Making public service a requirement for graduation. In recent years, our undergraduates have completed hundreds of thousands of community service hours annually. Another manifestation of this community support comes from Tulane City Center, a program of the Tulane School of Architecture. Through Tulane City Center, faculty, students and staff help community groups with healthy and innovative designs for specific buildings and neighborhood planning on a broader scale.

Tulane's application also documents work to increase access for low-income students and underrepresented groups. A key example is the Posse Program, which provides scholarships and assembles multicultural teams of low-income students from New Orleans and Los Angeles to support each other through college.

We're proud of these accomplishments. With help from the STARS system, we're excited about the advancements we anticipate in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Mike Fitts

President of Tulane University