

December 16, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director  
The Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Fay Zahniser:

Western Technical College (“Western”) is pleased to submit its second STARS report. Western is proud that we have maintained the Silver rating and increased the overall point total from its previous submission.

Western has been deeply committed to sustainability since signing the inaugural Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2007. This put in motion a district-wide effort to aggressively address its contribution to global warming. In 2016, Western reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability by signing the Climate Commitment. The concept of sustainability has become increasingly integral to Western’s identity and woven into many of the college’s strategic documents, policies and core learning outcomes.

As an open access, public two-year college, the sustainability work supports our unofficial motto, *every student, every day*. We recognize that supporting our students doesn’t stop at the boundaries of our campus. Western’s sustainability practices, grounded in the United Nations Global Goals, help build a thriving, resilient and just community by reducing air pollution, attending to the health and well-being of our students, reducing pervasive hunger, offering quality education that leads to jobs that pay living wages, stewarding our land and water resources, and the list goes on. Indeed, our commitment is a source of pride on our campus, and it has been outwardly recognized through various awards and recognitions including a Second Nature Climate Leadership Award in 2015 and U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School designation, also in 2015.

Since the last STARS report, Western has built its capacity around sustainability education, both for students and employees. In 2019 AASHE recognized Western as a Center for Sustainability across the Curriculum. We have led two multi-day workshops in collaboration with other local higher education institutions to help faculty embed sustainability within their curricula, and sustainability-focused professional development offerings for staff continue to grow.

**Roger Stanford, PhD**

President

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Western still has much work to do. Future sustainability work will continue to focus on strengthening the culture of sustainability on campus by engaging more students and staff to become sustainability leaders. Western will also strive to find cost-effective ways to reduce the carbon footprint, in line with its 2035 carbon neutrality goal.

As President of Western Technical College, I support our continued participation in the STARS program. It has offered us a powerful tool to benchmark our efforts and the data needed to make smart progress towards our sustainability goals. We look forward to continuing this journey.

Sincerely,



Roger Stanford, PhD  
President



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