

May 27, 2022

To the AASHE STARS Review Team:

We submit this letter jointly, as the outgoing Interim President and President Emeritus, who oversaw much of the foundational work of sustainability at Champlain in the last decade; and as the new President Elect, who will oversee the implementation of our next strategic plan.

Sustainability has been a stated value of Champlain College since 2012, when we wrote our strategic plan *Champlain 2020*, and was a foundational aspect to our 2007 Master Plan. This year, we launched [Re-Evolutionary: Champlain 2030](#), our next strategic plan. We have integrated sustainability into our innovative, career-focused educational model and into our campus practices. We expect that our students and employees will positively impact communities; that we will be a welcoming, supportive and just community; that we will pursue meaningful engagement with each other and through life-long learning; that we will support the Vermont economy through emerging and entrepreneurial fields; and that we will make progress toward carbon neutrality.

This is Champlain College's third full submission to STARS, and we are pleased at the progress we've made in the past six years since our original submission in 2016. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead as we strive to be a more sustainable community.

Examples of our recent efforts include:

#### Planning and Administration

- Including a commitment to modeling sustainability through efficient facilities and operations management and to making progress toward carbon neutrality within our new strategic plan
- Continuously being listed in the Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges List

#### Engagement

- Our students and staff on our Dublin, Ireland campus planting trees to offset their air travel

- Reinstating our annual Employee Service Day
- Joining the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, and earning a silver rating in 2020

Operations

- Creating a new dashboard to track various sustainability metrics
- Planting a five tree fruit orchard near Perry Hall, Champlain's Admissions building
- Introducing reusable take out "Ozzi" boxes to reduce waste
- Our Campus Apiary joining the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Pollinator Pledge

Academics

- Supporting our Environmental Policy & Studies students who hosted an Indigenous Peoples Week for our campus community this past fall
- Launching a new Applied Sustainability program in Fall 2022

We are proud of the work Champlain College has done to make our campus and community a more sustainable place, but know that this work is a continuous journey. The AASHE STARS program has allowed us to assess our efforts to date and will help guide our work in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Sincerely,



David Finney, Interim President, President Emeritus



Alex Hernandez, President Elect