

June 1, 2016

To the AASHE STARS Review Team:

This letter serves as my affirmation that the information in Champlain College's submission has been checked for accuracy. Our Sustainability Director, Dr. Christina Erickson, was the lead researcher for this project and after collecting data from our various departments, had the information reviewed by the "Responsible Parties" indicated for each credit. Undertaking AASHE STARS was a multi-year project. Originally, Champlain College used the STARS tool under Reporter Status, so that we could submit data to the Princeton Review for their annual Guide to Green Colleges. Several student interns, under Christina's direction, contributed to data collection, which allowed them the educational and professional experience of learning how such reviews are conducted and an in-depth look into the complexity of institutional systems.

Sustainability is one of Champlain College's core values and served as a guiding principle for our 2007 Campus Master Plan. Our Sustainability Office was created in 2008 and has continued to engage students, staff, and faculty in their many projects that touch every aspect of campus and our community. In 2013, the Sustainability Action Plan was developed to more specifically guide the Office's work. During that time, we adopted this definition of sustainability:

Champlain views sustainability in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods and a better world for all generations, as defined by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). At Champlain College, sustainability is a central value and we strive to infuse it throughout our other core values of distinctive excellence, innovation, human touch, global engagement, diversity and inclusion.

Additionally, we crafted a value statement which states:

Champlain College will be a sustainable institution, in our operational practices, our campus culture, our curriculum and in our relationships with our greater community. It is our belief that as we support students to be 21st century global citizens, they need to be well informed about sustainability concepts and practices as it relates to their field and profession. Further, we must create a campus where fully engaging in these concepts and practices is a part of life for our whole community. Additionally, we will be a model for other institutions and communities as we create an example of positive impact on the planet and its inhabitants. Because sustainability is a holistic and interdependent concept, our application of sustainability on campus and within our institution will demonstrate this and be *INFUSED* into all that we do.



Through various educational mediums, we spread sustainability awareness through the campus. Everyone has a role to play as we work together to create a sustainable institution and campus. Our Sustainability Action Plan, adopted in 2013, is our roadmap of actions for the coming years.

While it is the chief responsibility of the Sustainability Director to keep this aspirational value statement front and center, we are seeing greater involvement campus wide in fulfilling it.

It is exciting, then, to see how well our key achievements that we offer in this submission demonstrate the progress we've made in fulfilling the five goals laid out in our Strategic Plan: Champlain 2020, with the overarching goal: "By 2020, Champlain College will be the finest small, professionally and globally focused college in the United States."

For example:

- Our Stiller School of Business requires that each student take "Corporate Social Responsibility" so that our graduates have both business acumen and an ethical approach to their work, helps **Achieve Distinctive Academic Excellence.**
- Efforts such our student Eco-Rep Program, annual Kill-A-Watt Challenge, Bike-Share Program, Green Revolving Fund, Community Garden and Greenhouse, and campus gallery all support our goal to **Enrich Student Life.**
- Our work to decrease our energy consumption (over 35% in the past ten years) while adding needed academic and residential footage through improving efficiency and tapping into geothermal for heating and cooling has allowed us to **Enhance Financial Stability** by decreasing our utility costs, while also resulting in some of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the national Sightlines database.
- Our robust employee Wellbeing Program and Workplace Flexibility Policy contribute to the goal of **Excite, Engage, and Empower Faculty & Staff**
- Programs such as Imagine College and our CARE mentoring program are making strides toward **Fostering an Inclusive & Diverse Community.**

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 of the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Laackman
President