

# MILLS

February 27, 2014

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee:

Mills College is pleased to submit our STARS report, representing the culmination of a deep assessment of the engagement of sustainability within our systems, infrastructure, practices, and partnerships. The information contained in our submission is accurate and represents the efforts we have taken to create a “living laboratory” here on the Mills campus.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, the entire campus community engaged with the process of producing our strategic plan. At Mills, our aspirations are grounded in our mission and strengthened by our core values. As we look ahead to the College’s 175th anniversary in 2027, we are dedicated to the work of strengthening our commitment to inclusion, social justice, and sustainability over the next five years as one of our strategic initiatives. This initiative includes the following commitment:

*While Mills can be a living laboratory of sustainability, helping students learn through curricular and co-curricular work about social justice and equality in the world around them, it is imperative that the Mills community live and model the values we hold dear. Mills will pursue initiatives which enable us to be viewed as a 21st century college committed to sustainability with efforts including developing a campus farm, adopting energy savings measures, promoting food justice, and participating in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment to lessen our environmental footprint.*

We are well on our way to furthering our goals. Mills College just completed the Urban Farm Master Plan, which details the principles, goals, objectives, and activities for the farm as it scales up during its first five years. The Urban Farm at Mills College offers an exciting new opportunity to bring together students, faculty, staff, neighbors, and local community-based organizations and schools to develop a sustainable urban farm in the heart of East Oakland.

Mills is also on schedule to fulfill our commitment as part of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. We pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 15% by 2015, from 2008 levels, and are on track to meet our target.

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Mills College is honored to be a member of AASHE and to be a part of a nation-wide effort to educate and inspire future leaders in sustainability. The STARS report is one way we can monitor our progress and set goals for the future, a future that we hope is made more promising by our collective efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alecia A. DeCoudreaux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alecia A. DeCoudreaux

President, Mills College