

I am pleased that Richland Community College has embraced sustainability with such enthusiasm and commitment. Situated in the rich farm land of central Illinois, the College has a respect and commitment to providing students with a deep understanding of the value of the natural resources that support our regional economy. Linking this commitment with various accountability measures in our strategic plan, the College made great strides in developing cultural change in our students, faculty, and staff. We believe that the College's commitment to excellence will be further evidenced through the achievement of our students and community enabling them to grow, thrive, and prosper.

The College's Board of Trustees embraced a culture of sustainability by adopting a tenet several years ago that simply states: "That when the Board of Trustees weaves the core values into sustainable concepts with a perspective measured by the Triple Bottom Line (Environment, People, Economics), the College becomes values driven exceeding its mission."

Reporting the College's sustainability actions through STARS has provided focused guidelines and direction to a very broad effort making the campus more sustainable. I can assure that the report is an accurate measure of the many diverse ongoing activities currently underway at Richland Community College. The Board of Trustees adopted sustainability as one of the three main goals in its strategic plan and used the STARS criteria as the basis for several key performance indicators measuring the success of the strategic plan. That plan will be concluded later this year and replaced with a new plan to continue the efforts through STARS.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gayle M. Saunders
President