

28 February 2023

Office of the President

STARS Program Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
P.O. Box 824583
Philadelphia, PA 19182-4583

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am pleased to submit Catawba College's initial Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This report provides an accurate assessment of Catawba's historic commitment to sustainability and our efforts to create a living-learning laboratory, where sustainability and environmental stewardship are infused through our operations, curriculum, and culture.

Catawba College has long been a leader in sustainability education and sustainable operations among small colleges in the Southeastern United States. While our STARS report highlights many of our accomplishments, the following are worthy of special attention:

- In the last year and a half, the College has received \$242 million in endowment gifts, with a third of that amount dedicated to sustainability efforts on campus and in our academic programs, with a goal of becoming the premier environmental small college in the Southeast.
- Our Center for the Environment recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The building itself is undergoing renovations that will considerably increase its energy efficiency.
- With photovoltaic and solar thermal panels occupying the vast majority of our available roof space, our campus is a showcase for solar energy.
- Geothermal wells are used extensively for heating and cooling throughout our campus.
- Our environmental faculty is led by a National Geographic Explorer.
- We are committed to changing lives through education with nearly 40% of our student body comprising first-generation college students.

Through the preparation and completion of this initial report, Catawba College identified our fixed sustainable practices while attaining a roadmap for continuous improvement. As a college committed to helping students find their vocation, we value the insights this process has provided. We look forward to reporting our progress.

Sincerely,



David P. Nelson
President