



September 19, 2014

Dear AASHE STARS:

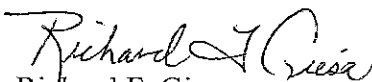
I am pleased to verify that the information submitted by the University of Mount Union to STARS is an accurate and complete representation of the current sustainability program at the University of Mount Union. We are proud to have been a charter STARS participant and to have earned a Bronze rating in our previous submission. We also remain committed to the ACUPCC and have provided regular reports of our progress through that organization. Our Board of Trustees adopted a long-term sustainability plan in May 2010, and we use STARS to assess our progress towards the goals of that plan.

Data collection, analysis and interpretation was a campus wide effort involving our Sustainability Management Advisory Committee (SMAC) and representatives from all academic departments and numerous administrative office. Our Physical Plant and Office of Institutional Research played a key role in gathering the data. Our SMAC approved this submission at its meeting on September 11, 2014.

We work to incorporate sustainability throughout our institution. Several recent physical improvements to campus illustrate that commitment. Our recently opened health sciences building, Gallaher Hall, was built to surpass LEED Silver standards and includes many state of the art features to conserve energy and provide for a healthy working environment for our students and staff. We recently took significant strides to remove vehicular traffic from the core of our campus, replacing streets with wide promenades accessible to pedestrians and our growing number of on-campus bicycle users. Within the realm of academics our faculty are in the process of a complete overhaul of general education program. Couched in the liberal arts, our new program, the Integrative Core, is providing many opportunities for our faculty to increase sustainability across the curriculum and we have augmented that trend with faculty development programs to foster the inclusion of sustainability in our teaching and learning.

We are grateful to AASHE and its members for developing and improving the STARS program and creating a forum for meaningful dialogue about sustainability among institutions of higher learning. We look forward to continued cooperation with AASHE and its member institutions as we seek to fulfill our own mission of preparing students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.

Sincerely,


Richard F. Giese
President

Office of the President