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September 25, 2017

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. We are proud to have been a charter STARS participant and to have earned a Silver rating for our previous submission. We also remain committed to Second Nature's Carbon Commitment 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 offices. SMAC also reviewed the information provided in this most recent submission.

We work to incorporate sustainability throughout our institution. Recent initiatives illustrate this commitment and include the establishment of a Green Revolving Fund and the development of a Campus Sustainability Tour and Wellness Trail. The University of Mount Union's Board of Trustees showed a continuing commitment to sustainability by approving a Green Revolving Fund in 2016. The internal fund is used to cycle back savings from energy efficiency improvements to fund new sustainability projects in the future. Recent projects include extensive LED lighting retrofits, motion sensors, and fume hood upgrades. Also, in 2016 the Campus Sustainability Tour was created in conjunction with a 1-mile Wellness Trail on Campus. The Tour highlights 23 Sustainability locations or initiatives on campus, including the solar array, bike fix-it station, white roof, butterfly garden, and many others. This tour has been integrated into Freshman Orientation and First Year Initiative Classes to educate our incoming students about the value of sustainability. In the realm of academics our faculty are currently reviewing a proposal for a sustainability minor. This interdisciplinary minor would give students the opportunity to develop a solid understanding of the concepts of sustainability and its applications across multiple disciplines.

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 yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dick Merriman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dick Merriman
President

Office of the President