



April 26, 2011

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

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 programs at our institution. We are proud to be a charter participant in this program, and we were pleased to have been a pilot institution for the development of STARS. Because of that participation, we elected to use STARS as a framework for developing significant parts of our Sustainability Plan. The plan was adopted by our Board of Trustees in May 2010, establishing our long-term commitment to the principles of sustainability. We intend to continue using STARS as a tool to assess our progress as we pursue our commitment to sustainability.

The research and data collection for this submittal was a campus-wide effort involving many offices under the coordination of our Sustainability Management Advisory Committee. This committee includes representatives from our administrative staff, faculty, students and neighboring community.

Mount Union has taken a number of steps that demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, and I would like to highlight a few of those. We built our first LEED certified building, the Gartner Welcome Center, and we spotlight our commitment to sustainability to prospective students and their parents when they visit our campus. We have added individual metering to most of our buildings and are embarking on a detailed analysis of energy consumption on a building by building basis. We have initiated a faculty development program, *The Headwaters Project*, that assists interested faculty with the development of courses that integrate sustainability concepts across our curriculum.

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

Sincerely,

Richard F. Giese
President

Office of the President