



March 17, 2021

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 Silver rating in 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 academic departments and numerous administrative offices.

We work to incorporate sustainability throughout our institution. Recent initiatives illustrate this commitment and include the continued support of our Green Revolving Fund (GRF) and the development of a new Sustainability Minor in Fall 2019.

The internal GRF is used to cycle back savings from energy efficiency improvements to fund new sustainability projects in the future. Projects include extensive LED lighting retrofits, motion sensors, programmable thermostats, and fume hood upgrades.

This new interdisciplinary minor gives students the opportunity to develop a solid understanding of the concepts of sustainability and its applications across multiple disciplines. In Spring 2020 three undergraduates were the first to receive this new minor. One of these students has gone on to start her own Hydroponic Growing Operation to serve a food insecure region.

The University of Mount Union's Board of Trustees shows a continuing commitment to sustainability and within the realm of academics our faculty are always looking for ways to incorporate sustainability themes across the curriculum, as is evidenced by First Year Seminar Course topics.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Botzman", is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D.
President

Office of the President