



**STEVEN L. SOLNICK**  
**PRESIDENT**

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Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
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To Whom It May Concern:

As the president of Warren Wilson College, it is my pleasure to offer our first submission of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) report.

Sustainability is woven into the fabric of Warren Wilson College and our core values and mission are closely aligned with the work of AASHE. Our pledge to sustainability is grounded in our rich history of place and purpose, embedded by generations of community members who have modeled our fundamental commitment to connect values to action. The practice of sustainability flows from the College mission, which serves as our compass for responsible citizenship, and from our unique liberal arts model of engaged learning.

Warren Wilson College has a long and recognized commitment to sustainability. When we signed the Talloires Declaration in 2000, we pledged to “create an institutional culture of sustainability.” In 2004, we were recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as one of the 24 leading institutions in the nation (of the more than 3,200) with “students and staff working for a sustainable future.” In 2006, AASHE distinguished us with a Campus Sustainability Award. In 2007, Warren Wilson became a signatory of the American College and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). In 2008, Sierra Magazine named us 4th in the nation of the leading colleges and universities that stand for an “overall commitment to sustainability” and the practices that express this ethos. In 2010, we adopted a sustainable dining policy, which cultivates a campus food culture that celebrates the pleasures of producing, preparing and consuming sustainable food. In 2013, Warren Wilson College was awarded Best Case Study by AASHE in recognition of its Center Campus Tree Inventory and Carbon Sequestration/Storage Analysis, conducted by the College’s landscaping crew in partnership with the N.C. Forest Service. In 2015, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to divest all endowment funds from fossil fuels, and the College was named “Green College of the Year” by WNC Sierra Club.

While we are honored by these achievements and recognitions, they also challenge us to further our understanding and our expression of sustainability. The STARS report, and subsequent rating, provide us a tangible, external benchmark against which we may continue to measure our progress toward greater sustainability in the future.

As president of Warren Wilson College, I can attest to the accuracy of data submitted in this STARS report. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in STARS!

Sincerely,

Steven L. Solnick

*In the Swannanoa Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains*

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