



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Katherine Bergeron  
*President*

May 28, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Washington St., Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to submit to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education our most recent Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report for Connecticut College.

Sustainability is such an important dimension of our community that, during our Commencement last week, we had not one but two talks focused on it: Ethan Brown, graduate of the Connecticut College class of 1994 and founder and CEO of Beyond Meat, spoke about finding his voice, following his conviction, and founding a company. And I invoked the long and distinguished history of environmental stewardship at Connecticut College through the work of Richard Goodwin, professor of Botany and founding member of the Nature Conservancy. Goodwin's legacy lives on at the College in our Center for the Environment, in our nationally recognized Arboretum, and in our strategic plan, *Building on Strength*, with its priority of supporting a just and sustainable community.

Since our last STARS report in 2018, we have made great progress on our sustainability goals. In our academic program, we now offer more than 260 courses focused on sustainability across a majority of our academic departments and programs. We have dramatically increased the use of our campus as a living lab. We have instituted a new "career-informed learning" course through the Office of Sustainability (SUS293), pairing students with alumni mentors to develop new sustainability projects. Most importantly, we have seen the stunning results of an independent study led by Professor Chad Jones, in which a group of students from a wide array of majors planned, designed and ultimately installed a solar array on a significant campus building.

We also took many steps to promote anti-racism and to educate our campus about power, privilege and social justice. Our new "Social Difference and Power" course requirement went into effect this year, with

the Class of 2024. We launched Elevate, our first ever and first annual conference on social justice. And we mandated universal anti-bias training for the campus. All of these programs are referenced in the enclosed report.

Over the past three years, we have put a spotlight on sustainability through annual campaigns. The campaign themes—"Pass on Plastic," "Putting the Liberal Arts into Climate Action" and "Nourishing Community"—have allowed us to collaborate across offices and academic departments to engage many more students, faculty and staff. We have seen measurable impacts from these outreach campaigns, too. We saved over 10,000 bottles per year by eliminating bottled water; and we reduced meat consumption by implementing mostly meatless Mondays.

As before, we are grateful for this evaluation process, which has provided the opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to plan for a more sustainable future. I can confirm with enthusiasm that this report accurately and proudly represents our ongoing commitment to sustainability at Connecticut College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Bergeron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Katherine Bergeron  
President