



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH
COLLEGES

Office of the President

Dear members of the STARS Steering Committee,

Hobart and William Smith Colleges are committed to the conservation of natural resources and the advancement of sustainable practices. Building on a long history of environmental leadership, our community brings expertise, enthusiasm and innovation to confront environmental issues on a local and global scale. Our report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) reflects the progress of our ongoing efforts, and affirms our confidence in the accuracy of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission.

As a member of AASHE, the Colleges are dedicated to upholding and advancing our collective work around sustainability and planning across campus, ranging from strategic diversity initiatives and co-curricular experiences to student life and outreach programming. In 2007, with assistance from a student-led effort, HWS became a charter member and signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, pledging to achieve climate neutrality (net zero emissions) by 2025. Since then, the Colleges formed a Climate Task Force, conducted several comprehensive greenhouse gas inventories, cut energy consumption and created robust recycling and composting programs.

To sustain and grow the reach of that work, our faculty and staff have integrated environmental outreach and education throughout the HWS collegiate experience. The "living laboratory" approach, which is central to our Climate Action Plan, relies on course projects, independent studies and service work to shape both our culture of environmental sustainability and our policy decisions.

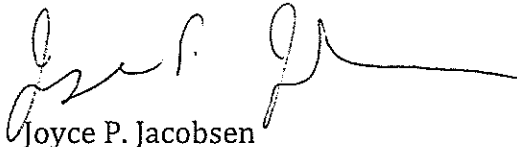
Other points of distinction include:

- Ranking among the nation's leading colleges and universities in sustainability and environmental stewardship: *Princeton Review* named HWS to its 2020 list of "25 Best Schools for Making an Impact" and to its 2019 edition of "Guide to Green Colleges"; in 2020, *Environment America* ranked HWS second in the nation for higher education institutions producing or purchasing renewable energy (the Colleges ranked first in the small school category);

- Developing a state-of-the-art water analytical facility, which will make HWS home to one of only four labs in the region to meet New York State certification standards;
- Installing two solar farms that together can provide up to five megawatts of electricity and generate 50% of the Colleges electricity needs; the remaining 50% is offset with wind electricity, making all electricity on campus carbon-free;
- Earning LEED Gold for the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts, a 65,000-square-foot building at the center of campus;
- Launching the Sustainable Living and Learning Community program, a First-Year Seminar focused on sustainability education and community building;
- Implementing sustainable land management practices, such as increasing tree planting on campus and cultivating insect habitats and soil fertility, which has led to certifications from Tree Campus USA and Bee Campus USA;
- Hiring a Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, who reports directly to the President, and establishing both an office and a standing committee devoted to DEI;
- Developing a Strategic Diversity Plan to address disparities related to recruitment and retention, campus spaces, student relations, teaching and learning, and community development;
- Implementing new initiatives, such as Community Empowerment Microgrants and the HWS STEM Scholars Program, to support ongoing opportunity programs and resources for underrepresented groups;
- Remaining dedicated to service and civic engagement, a cornerstone of our values, with students volunteering more than 80,000 hours annually.

Enhancing the health of our local community and region is a serious responsibility, with opportunities to engage, educate and improve lives. We are proud of the work we have done in these areas, and are excited to continue that work in partnership with AASHE.

Sincerely,



Joyce P. Jacobsen
President