



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Office of the President

February 23, 2017

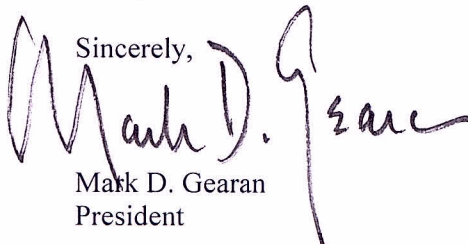
Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

Hobart and William Smith Colleges have long been committed to fostering an engaged campus community that deeply values the support, pursuit and advancement of sustainability and environmental leadership. Corresponding to those efforts and to share our progress, the Colleges present our latest report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and affirm our confidence in the accuracy of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission.

A member of AASHE, the Colleges are dedicated to upholding and advancing our collective work around sustainable practices and planning across campus, ranging from co-curricular experiences and student life to operations and outreach. 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. Other points of distinction have included:

- Earning LEED Gold for the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts, a new 65,000 square foot building at the center of campus;
- Establishing two local solar farms, which will deliver 50% of the Colleges' electricity. One of the largest solar installations at any institution of higher education in New York State, the combined arrays can provide up to five megawatts of electricity;
- Becoming the first small liberal arts institution in New York to be powered solely by wind;
- Integrating sustainability outreach and education into Orientation, with EcoReps taking a significant role of sharing information about sustainable practices and programs;
- Launching the Sustainable Living and Learning Community program, a First-Year Seminar focused on sustainability education and community building;
- Welcoming the Office of Diversity and Inclusion which fosters dignity and respect for all members of the community and across a range of areas including education, advocacy and policy;
- Remaining dedicated to service and civic engagement, a cornerstone of distinction at HWS, with students volunteering more than 80,000 hours annually, including efforts connected to sustainability.

As we prepare for the future, the Colleges are dutifully and significantly working toward enhancing action and engagement around sustainability. We are proud of our sustained progress over the years, and are pleased to work in partnership with AASHE to share those efforts and improvements.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Gearan
President

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Preparing Students to Lead Lives of Consequence.