

27 March 2013

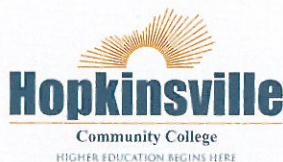
The Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

It is with great satisfaction that I affirm the accuracy of Hopkinsville Community College's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System report. As a leader within the Kentucky Community and Technical College System in matters of sustainability, preparing this report has clearly highlighted both our institutional strengths and those areas in which we can improve.

Hopkinsville has operated under an institutional sustainability plan since 2008, the same year that our governing institution, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, developed a planning document for its central office. In the four intervening years, Hopkinsville has made great strides in working toward sustainability-focused behaviors in its planning and administration, its educational offerings and emphases, and in operations.

In preparing our STARS submission, we have learned that there is much we can do to advance sustainable behaviors in the small-town, rural south. Among our peers, we are a community leader in renewable energy use, recycling, institutional and community health initiatives, and working toward a more just society. Many times, our strengths within the community are tied to informal and community-based educational initiatives, as indicated by our higher scores in Education and Research and Planning, Administration, and Engagement. The examination of practices in our weakest reporting area, institutional operations, has given us many ideas for working with our local utility partners so that we can track our consumption and work to reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

Our immediate goal for this report is to significantly improve our local sustainability plan so it will hew closely to the areas monitored by AASHE and STARS, while still retaining local focus on a number of factors that the reporting tool does not measure. Ideally, as more institutions within the KCTCS system join AASHE and use the STARS tool, we will be able to work as a group of like-minded partners to improve the many areas over which individual institutions in our system have no real control: reporting community service and sustainability-focused courses on transcripts and advocating for sustainable choices and more transparency where the institution's investments are concerned.



AASHE  
Page 2  
27 March 2013

Documenting continuous improvement in sustainable behaviors for our institution is a vitally important advancement for Hopkinsville Community College, and we are excited to be the first institution in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to take this noteworthy step. We look forward to building on the strong foundation we've laid and documented with the help of AASHE and STARS and improving our score in our next review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick R. Lake". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Patrick R. Lake, Ed.D.  
Interim President and CEO,  
Hopkinsville Community College