



Juan R. Olivarez, Ph.D., President

July 31, 2015

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

Since Peter Wege launched the first West Michigan College Presidents' meeting on Economicology in 1999, Aquinas College has strived to be a leader in the effort to integrate sustainability in American colleges and universities. We have experienced growth in a number of areas over that time, and are especially proud of our pioneering effort to offer a Sustainable Business degree at the undergraduate level in 2003. We have recently taken steps to assess our progress in sustainability across the College, and participation in the AASHE STARS program provides an invaluable tool to measure our progress and to set new goals for future growth.

We continue to offer innovative programs in Sustainable Business at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In recent months we have launched a campus wide initiative to integrate the themes of Economicology across the campus. The expression "Economicology" was coined by the late Peter Wege and reflects a desire to "create a balance of livability between our ecology and the economy." Our new vision is framed by three overarching goals:

1. Aquinas College will become an intellectual incubator that integrates the Catholic Dominican tradition and the Economicology framework.
2. Aquinas College will lead change that addresses human and ecological issues.
3. Aquinas College will become a living lab of sustainable practices.

Compiling the report not only has taught us that we have come a long way, but also has identified additional actions to take that will further enhance our sustainability efforts. Thus, we offer this report which has undergone careful examination by our staff as a good faith assessment of our current level of activities. We hope to amend the report at an early point to document our continued growth and leadership in sustainability, particularly our progress toward Zero Waste and Carbon Neutrality.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juan Olivarez, Ph.D.
President