

# AQUINAS COLLEGE

March 4, 2019

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 in the past twenty years and are now projecting growth for the next twenty years. Our participation in the AASHE STARS program provides an important tool to measure our progress and to set new goals for future growth.

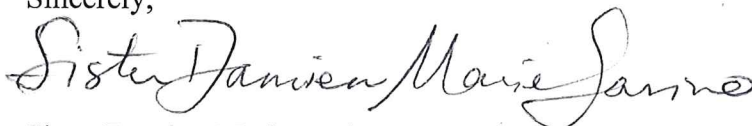
We continue to offer innovative programs in Sustainable Business at the undergraduate level and have over the past several years expanded our academic offerings with sustainability content across the curriculum. Two years ago, we instituted a new, revised undergraduate Environmental Studies major that involves interdisciplinary work across the science disciplines as well as business. We have also incorporated sustainability content in History, English, Community Leadership and Humanities courses.

In 2016, Aquinas College created a Dean of Science and Sustainability position, further demonstrating the college's dedication to sustainability. As the fortunate holder of this position, I have encouraged the cross-disciplinary initiatives previously mentioned, as well as campus-wide dialogue on the connections between sustainability and human flourishing. As a Catholic college, we are working on incorporating the Pope's environmental document, *Laudato Si'*, into our sustainability discussions and initiatives. Thanks to a large donation from the Wege Foundation, we are also in the process of developing what will be called the WISE (Wege Institute for Sustainability and Economicology). This Institute will be housed in our new science building, into which the Center for Sustainability will also move in the coming year. Our Zero Waste initiative has become part of the campus' sustainability identity and a model for other colleges. We continue to strive toward our overarching sustainability goals:

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

We offer this STARS report, which is the product of careful work by our staff and Sustainability Director, as a good faith assessment of our current level of sustainability activities. We look forward to continued growth and collaboration in the future.

Sincerely,



Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, Ph.D.  
Dean of Science and Sustainability