



January 10, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

It is with great pleasure that East Carolina University (ECU) presents its second STARS report. I am proud to report that ECU has improved its STARS rating from Bronze to a provisional rating of Silver, which also accomplishes a unit objective laid out in the *ECU Strategic Plan 2017-2022: Capture Your Horizon*. Participating in STARS has also led to ECU being included in the Princeton Review Guide to the Best 385 Colleges for the first time ever.

The University's Mission is *to be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation* and we accomplish our mission through education, research, creative activities, and service while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. These commitments are integrated throughout our first ECU Sustainability Plan, which was put together by our University Sustainability Manager and many students, faculty, staff, and community members over the course of a year and adopted by our Chancellor and his Executive Council in October 2018. Through the planning process, a powerful vision of ECU anchoring the region emerged: *"to provide leadership in fostering a culture of sustainability at ECU and demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of a very diverse people and environment in eastern North Carolina."* It is this vision for sustainability and the ECU strategic plan commitments that you will see reflected in the programs and practices described in our STARS report.

We are proud to have made significant progress in each credit category, especially the efforts we've taken to earn additional points in Engagement and Operations. For example, the University Sustainability Manager has formed multiple new partnerships both on and off campus to increase student and employee awareness and involvement. In addition, we've worked hard to gain a better understanding of our food and beverage purchasing and to reduce the impacts and resource consumption associated with campus operations. Furthermore, since our last submission we have maintained our status as a Tree Campus USA and a Bicycle Friendly University as well as added the designation of Bee Campus USA.

Much like our first submission, this second STARS report also highlights where there is room for improvement and a need for additional programs, policies, and initiatives so that we can continue to advance the culture of sustainability at ECU. The transparent and accountable framework of

STARS has been a valuable tool that has allowed us to establish baselines for a variety of sustainability metrics and identify key areas for improvement, which we will attempt to address for future submissions.

As Interim Chancellor for East Carolina University, I affirm that the information in this submission has been thoroughly checked for accuracy. I thank the many faculty, students, and staff that were involved in collecting data and reporting information, without which this STARS submission would not have been possible. I look forward to continuing this journey along with other colleges and universities who have made the commitment to campus sustainability, especially our peers in the state of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Mitchelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Dr. Ron Mitchelson
Interim Chancellor