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August 23, 2013

Wendy W. Scott, CAE  
Executive Director  
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Executive Director Scott,

On behalf of the University of California, Davis, I am pleased to submit our documentation for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). It is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge. The materials being submitted reflect UC Davis's deep commitment to sustainability, as evidenced in our research, teaching, public service, community engagement and campus operations.

UC Davis leads in research that informs major questions about the sustainability of our planet. A few examples of our research efforts and centers include:

- The Institute for Transportation Studies, where Dr. Andrew Frank's pioneering research led to the development of the plug-in hybrid car;
- The California Lighting Technology Center, where faculty and staff work on energy-efficient lighting and development of new building code standards;
- The Western Cooling Efficiency Center, where energy conserving cooling systems are being developed;
- The Long Term Research in Sustainable Agriculture project, an ongoing study designed to last 100 years; and
- Ecological and biological research studying climate change's effects on habitat and species' adaptation to climate change, soil carbon releases, ruminants' methane production, and ocean acidification.

Our students are equally active in their classrooms and labs and in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. UC Davis launched the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems major in 2011. Across the campus, students can enroll in more than 687 sustainability-related or focused classes taught in 34 departments, including the student-organized Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) class. Students also can participate on a team in national competitions such as the USEPA's P3 (People, Prosperity and the Planet) competition and a USDOE Geothermal Energy Modeling competition, or get involved in a wide range of campus student organizations focused on social equity and environmental sustainability concerns. UC Davis is a hands-on, participatory campus with

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students running the local bus system (Unitrans), the on-campus Memorial Union Coffeehouse, Project Compost, the Student Farm, and many other campus and community endeavors, which provide students with an opportunity to learn through practice.

Students and faculty often get involved with operations and administrative staff to test pilot projects in campus facilities. The campus is filled with examples of such collaborations. Our campus parking structures were a test bed for new LED bi-level lighting in partnership with the CLTC. West Village, a zero net energy development on campus, engaged Gallagher Hall Graduate School of Management students and Energy Efficiency Center faculty and staff to analyze cost models for deep energy efficiency and renewable energy in the development. A biodigester under construction on campus with production capacity of about 4 million kWh annually is a joint project between UC Davis and a start-up company formed by a UC Davis alumna, using technology developed by a UC Davis professor. UC Davis launched the Smart Lighting Initiative in November 2009 to reduce energy used for lighting by 60%, and has already reduced lighting energy use more than 16%. The campus purchases approximately 20% sustainable foods for the three campus dining commons; and has achieved a 73% waste diversion rate, including construction and demolition waste.

We recognize the pressing need to not only teach our students about sustainability matters, to conduct ground-breaking research, and to continuously move towards more sustainable operations of our campus facilities, but as a public institution, we also have a mission to engage with the world around us and share our knowledge and discoveries as widely and helpfully as possible. Faculty member Dan Sperling worked with the California Air Resources Board to develop the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Faculty and staff researchers have been introducing new farming practices (once thought to be pie-in-the-sky) into mainstream agriculture for more than 100 years, including drip irrigation and other technologies to reduce water use, reduced pesticide use in agricultural production through integrated pest management and postharvest practices that minimize food loss/waste and maintain high quality and nutrition. UC Davis has been the leading source of science and legal scholarship for asserting the *Public Trust Doctrine*, which obligates government to protect and preserve waterways for public uses, fish and aquatic ecosystems as a whole. Also, our Arboretum has partnered with the California Center for Urban Horticulture at UC Davis to field test over 100 plant species that are low maintenance, drought tolerant, hardy in the regional climate, and support native pollinators, as part of the "Arboretum All-Stars" program that seeks to teach our regional community how to garden in an environmentally responsible (Valley-Wise) manner.

UC Davis appreciates the work of AASHE to create the STARS reporting system. We are pleased to participate in this effort to provide clear, transparent metrics of our progress.

Sincerely,



Linda P.B. Katehi  
Chancellor

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