



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

May 1, 2020

STARS Administrator
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter serves to introduce and affirm Humboldt State University's achievement with regard to our 2020 STARS submission and rating. At the time of our submission, our institution's commitment to cultivating global sustainability leaders, to implementing sustainable practices and operations, and to serving as a testing ground for sustainability innovation, is more relevant than ever. This commitment is set against a global landscape of increasingly unprecedented climate catastrophes, crises, and chaos in the year 2020.

Given the current state of the world, we believe that the intensifying impacts of global climate change -- drought, fire, flood, food shortage, immigration conflict, geopolitical tension, spread of illness and disease, mass extinction, and others -- will only continue to grow in scope and magnitude. While wrecking negative impacts and increasingly complex challenges on the global landscape, our students will find themselves in this situation for the foreseeable future.

For these reasons, it is paramount that Humboldt State maintain and bolster its position as a leader in sustainability. We have a great responsibility to leverage our social, intellectual, and economic capital to provide resilient and adaptive solutions in such a changing world.

As such, I am pleased to announce and highlight that, with this current STARS report, we have again achieved a Gold rating, increasing our score to roughly 71 points, from a score of 69 points with our last submission in 2017. In our current report, readers will note that we now offer more classes teaching sustainability topics, host more sustainability research and scholarship than ever before, continue improving energy efficiency in our buildings, have bolstered sustainable transportation programs, and are saving more water than ever. We still have work to do minimizing our greenhouse gas footprint, minimizing waste from the campus, gathering data about sustainable food expenditures, and ensuring robust diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and programs are implemented across all departments, areas, and programs, among other measures.

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We are grateful for such an opportunity to compare our performance, both against our own STARS results from the past and against peer institutions, because this process of assessment and iterative improvement yields a scenario under which we may collectively learn to improve campus operations and initiatives through a data driven process. We also hope this process helps to sustain our campus as a frontrunner in environmental and social justice education, thereby maintaining our status as a premier institution for students seeking such opportunities in their college experience.

Furthermore, the timing at which we are sharing these STARS results with the world aligns to other campus planning processes that are currently underway. Our accomplishments, growth, and identified improvement areas will guide our campus as we embark on updating two important institutional documents in the coming academic year: the Climate Action Plan and the Strategic Plan. Both documents will provide roadmaps to how we continue to live our values at Humboldt State. Both will influence how resources are utilized in the coming years and how our staff will spend their valuable time.

It is my goal that sustainability remains a hallmark pillar of our University, that this remains reflected in both planning documents, and that our campus continues to prove our robust expertise and talent for teaching, practicing and living sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jackson, Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Jackson, Jr., Ed.D.
President

TJ/kl