

August 08, 2013

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
213 ½ North Limestone
Lexington, KY 40507
USA

RE: Humber College STARS Report Submission

I am delighted to present Humber College's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission to the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Our role as an institution is to prepare our future leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed. We believe that this first submission to STARS will assist us in sharing our learned knowledge and experience with our students and the Humber community. Humber continues to lead by example through the integration of sustainable decision making and practices into our operations and programs.

Sustainability projects have been implemented throughout Humber's history, but were formally recognized in 2008 when sustainability was stated as a key value in the College's Strategic Plan (2008-2013). A Sustainability Coordinating Committee and departmental Green Teams were formed and a Sustainability Action Plan was also developed the same year. Much has been accomplished since then from integrating green building designs into new buildings and existing retrofits to hiring a Sustainability Manager to oversee initiatives and programs and further engage the Humber community.

The environment is often the first focus when thinking of sustainability, but it goes a lot further than that. At Humber, sustainability means "preserving our collective future by embracing the social, ecological and economic impact of our decisions" (Humber College Strategic Plan 2013-2018). As such, we have adopted STARS as a key metric to understand where we are and track our progress. This first submission is now our baseline assessment which identifies the areas where we can improve, as well as help us celebrate areas where we excel.

The comprehensive process of information gathering for STARS has started new conversations about sustainability with students, staff and faculty in all areas of the college and has inspired new initiatives and goals. I look forward to the evolution of our sustainability strategy at Humber as we strive to further reduce our impacts while addressing the needs of our students and staff. We are proud of a Silver level rating and are excited for what is to come.

I affirm the information of our first STARS submission is correct to the best of my knowledge and accurately reflects the college's current sustainability performance.

Yours truly,



Chris Whitaker
CEO and President