



Office of the Chancellor

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The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

2401 Walnut Street
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Philadelphia, PA 19103

06/23/2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to voice my support of the University of Massachusetts Boston's inaugural participation in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System program. This submission at once reflects the hard work achieved across our campus in matters of sustainability and is a touchstone for the University's future sustainability endeavors and goals. This submission process has allowed us to simultaneously identify our shortcomings and celebrate our successes—both of which are critical for the sustainable, healthy growth and development of our institution.

UMass Boston's commitment to sustainability is our STARS' point of departure. Our new Strategic Plan embodies an ethic and practice for sustainable learning, sustainable development, and a sustainable humanity. Alongside our Strategic Plan, we are developing an Energy and Carbon Master Plan to update our infrastructure and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in a timely manner. These signature documents are individual beacons of our values and principles, and they also establish the groundwork for a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan in the coming years.

UMass Boston's authentic participation and membership in the Sustainability Council of the University of Massachusetts President's Office, as well as our own interdisciplinary Sustainability Committee, demonstrates our dedication to creating collaborative, sustainable policies now and moving forward. Our dedication to sustainability lives in a plethora of academic opportunities such as the Clean Energy and Sustainability minor, Environmental Science undergraduate and graduate degrees, the work of the Stone Living Lab, and the Green Planet Living Learning Community. Our Dean of our School for the Environment served on the 2022 Earthshot Prize Award organizing committee.

I look forward to UMass Boston's continued participation in STARS and feel confident that we will be successful long-term in our sustainability endeavors with the help of organizations such as AASHE. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MSO", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
Chancellor