



Celebrating a Century!
1913-2013

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

July 26, 2013

Ms. Wendy Scott
Executive Director, AASHE
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Scott,

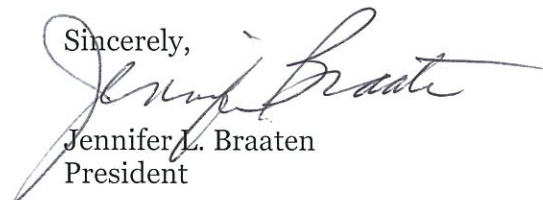
On behalf of Ferrum College I am extremely pleased to provide this letter of affirmation regarding our College's STARS submission. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our founding this year, we hold fast to the principles and practices that have sustained us as a College and as one of the largest economic drivers in our county. To the best of our knowledge this submission, compiled by our sustainability coordinator, is accurate and includes input from numerous faculty and staff.

Ferrum College is a four-year, comprehensive, primarily residential college related to the United Methodist Church. Located in a setting of rich natural beauty in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, Ferrum provides its 1,500 students with an outstanding undergraduate education anchored in the liberal arts and sciences and focused on career and graduate school preparation. In close proximity to mountains, lakes, rivers and state and national parks, Ferrum presents multiple opportunities to reinforce the importance of maintaining a healthy respect for and a nurturing relationship with the natural environment and puts those values into daily practice.

Our commitment to sustainability extends campus-wide. Ferrum's 30+ majors include one of the oldest environmental science programs in the country. College faculty and students have been involved in water quality monitoring at nearby Smith Mountain Lake since 1985. In addition to numerous courses that focus on sustainability we offer a Stewardship for Sustainability Certificate. We are signatories on the ACUPCC, we have developed a draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) and we are in the process of developing a Center for Sustainability. We have recently constructed a biomass boiler on campus that, when fully operational, will provide heat to the campus through renewable fuel sources such as pulp wood and switch grass. We have many sustainability-themed programs in place for our students, staff and faculty including: Farm to Table local foods initiatives,, Trayless Dining Hall, food waste composted in EarthTubs®, participation in RecycleMania(2012 Prize Winner), receipt of a 2013 Recycle Bin grant, student clubs focused on sustainability, and the Save our Streams Program (macroinvertebrate).

We are grateful for the opportunity to present this submission. A highlight of our STARS efforts has been the forging of important working relationships with various individuals and groups across campus as we have discussed practices and areas of strength and identified where improvements can be made. For future submissions our goals will include additional documentation of our practices and making our guidelines and recommendations more assessable and accessible to our community. We plan to use the STARS inventory to continue greening the Ferrum campus in an even more strategic manner.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Braaten
President

JLB/tmp