



July 22, 2019

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to submit the University of Mississippi's STARS report, which is the institution's first comprehensive sustainability assessment. As the flagship university of the state of Mississippi and a member of the Climate Leadership Network, we recognize the importance of sustainability in our mission to transform lives, communities and the world.

The data included in this report reflects more than a decade of sustainability work and advancements at UM. Notable achievements include:

- UM's inaugural Flagship Constellations, which are interdisciplinary research-focused communities of interest organized around the topics of disaster resilience, community wellbeing and brain health.
- The establishment of UM's Division for Diversity and Community Engagement and multiple new positions to support the work of the Division, as well as UM's continued commitment to diversity, inclusion and support for underrepresented groups.
- Programs and efforts dedicated to transforming communities in Mississippi, such as the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, MPartner and numerous community engaged research projects throughout the state.
- Increased opportunities for student curricular and co-curricular engagement, including the new disaster sciences minor, the region's first student chapter of the Audubon Society, and sustainability focused Associated Student Body Leadership positions.
- Tenets of sustainability included throughout campus planning efforts, including the recently updated UM Master Plan and Diversity Plan.

To the best of my knowledge, the information submitted in this report is accurate. The report was compiled by the UM Office of Sustainability with support from faculty and staff across campus with expertise in specific credit areas.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Sparks
Interim Chancellor