



President's Office

Dec. 15, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser, Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

On behalf of Concordia College, I am pleased to submit our third Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. I affirm that it is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Over the past three years, Concordia has made significant efforts to advance carbon reduction goals, resilience planning, and student engagement around sustainability issues. Since signing the Climate Commitment in April of 2017, individuals from across the college community have worked on developing a robust plan for carbon reduction at the college. Working groups comprised of faculty, staff, and students developed recommendations for the college's first-ever Climate Action Plan. Working groups focused on addressing emissions from air travel, making campus systems more efficient, promoting behavioral change, and enhancing climate education across the curriculum. The college contracted with the engineering firm KFI to develop a strategy for achieving carbon neutrality through the use of renewable energy technology. Recommendations in all of these areas will be consolidated into the college's Climate Action Plan, due to be finalized during the first half of 2021. The college has also taken a holistic and community-based approach to developing a resilience plan for the college. In addition to conducting an internal resilience assessment, Concordia has led the charge for building resilience in the city of Moorhead by organizing an inclusive team of stakeholders to tackle community-scale resilience challenges. To support the work of this Moorhead Community Resilience Task Force, Concordia applied for and received a Community Innovation Grant from the Bush Foundation.

In 2018, Concordia completed the construction of the, LEED Gold certified, Integrated Science Center. This building serves as a pillar of the college's commitment to being an institution that both teaches and practices sustainability. The construction of the building included the installation of many native plantings and two new rain gardens, which along with our recent certification as a Bee Campus, has bolstered our ongoing commitment to building a beautiful and sustainable campus. Another significant improvement to the college's infrastructure was the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system at the EcoHouse, the college's sustainability-focused living learning community. In addition to planning efforts and infrastructure improvements, over the past three years Concordia has reinforced its commitment to the student experience by making improvements to existing student programming and by implementing new initiatives such as the Cobber Food Pantry, RecycleMania, and the student-led Carbon-Free Concordia Collaborative.

Concordia College's commitment to sustainability emerges from our commitment to being a liberal arts college that cultivates engaged, driven leaders dedicated to the Christian life. Concordia is aware of its presence in a historically rich and diverse community. It is of utmost importance that we act with care for this place as well as all the people we impact both locally and globally. The college encourages its students to be global citizens and in turn, the college must operate in the same mindset. It is this dedication to sustainability and the global community that aligns with AASHE's efforts and goals. We are glad to be a part of this sustainability-focused community and are grateful for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Craft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "W" and "C".

William J. Craft
President