

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Office of the President

June 1, 2017

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

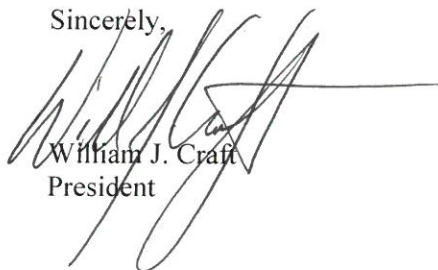
Dear Ms. Zahniser:

On behalf of Concordia College, I am pleased to submit our second 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, we have made exciting progress in pursuing the aspirations set out in the 2012 document, "Concordia College's Vision for Sustainability." Bolstered by a \$550,000 external grant and investments of college resources, we have implemented an array of initiatives aimed at improving our capacity to educate for sustainability leadership and at strengthening engagement with our local community. The title of our grant program captures the driving focus of our sustainability work: "Preparing Students for Globally-engaged, Justice-driven, and Ecologically-minded Citizenship and Leadership." A state-of-the-art high tunnel facility with a solar thermal system was added to the campus garden, extending the growing season so that more faculty and students can make use of the site. Nearly one-third of the faculty participated in an extensive curriculum development program, while over one hundred staff members participated in a newly-created Green Office Program. The creation of a Sustainability Science faculty position with a focus on experiential learning addressed staffing needs in environmental studies while bringing on board a faculty member with interests in urban ecology. This dovetailed with our other efforts to engage more deeply with our local community through the formation of a Fargo-Moorhead Sustainability Network, the creation of student internships with local organizations, and a project to spur constructive conversations about energy. This Fall, our new science facility will come online featuring a number of visible and educational sustainability features that are part of the College's aim for LEED Gold certification. Lastly, on April 11th I was pleased to sign Second Nature's Integrated Climate Commitment. The development of a Climate Action Plan will enable us to take our efforts to the next level in the coming years.

Sustainability at Concordia College arises from our commitment as a liberal arts college to cultivating engaged democratic citizens and from our devotion as a Lutheran college to the active care and renewal of the world. Concordia has long been keenly aware of its heritage in the Red River Valley and of the ways in which stewardship of place defines us. We have been equally aware as a college dedicated to global education that all we do affects our neighbors, close by and far away. And so our dedication to sustainability, and to the common good that AASHE promotes, wells up from who we are. We are grateful for your work, and we are glad to be part of it.

Sincerely,



William J. Craft
President