March 12, 2021

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
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Seattle Central College
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To Whom It May Concern,

Seattle Central College is pleased to submit our third AASHE STARS report, approximately three years since our last submission in December 2017. Seattle Central has continued its commitment to sustainability, especially in equity, diversity, and inclusion, since our last submission, and we continue to value our involvement in the STARS program.

The college is proud of its mission to be “an open-access learning institution, one which prepares each student for success in life and work, fostering a diverse, engaged, and dynamic community.” The Seattle Promise College Tuition and Support Program serves this mission by creating more equitable higher education opportunities for Seattle public school graduates. It is a partnership between the City of Seattle, Seattle Colleges, and Seattle Public Schools, who had to work together to overcome financial, administrative, and other significant challenges to create this innovative program. It reduces barriers to college for Seattle high school graduates, helping to close the opportunity gap and helping ensure Seattle’s young people are prepared for current challenges, including climate change, social injustices, income disparity, and others.

Seattle Central is also proud of the development and recent launch of Seattle Colleges’ Inclusion Advocate program. With permission from and modeled after Oregon State University’s Search Advocate program, our Inclusion Advocate program is designed to create a standardized, anti-biased search process to build a rich and diverse workforce that reflects the diversity of our students and community.

Through several programs and initiatives, Seattle Central continues to advance sustainability in operations. Several of our buildings (all over 50,000 gsf) have completed the City of Seattle Tune Up, which “is a progressive energy efficiency program that helps building owners identify smart, responsible ways to reduce energy and water costs,” as well as reduce our carbon footprint. We continue strategic Energy Service Company (ESCO) projects, which have included a significant LED retrofit project in our Broadway Edison building (457,017 sq. ft.). Lastly, we continue to support alternative modes of transportation through local policy to make public transportation more affordable and accessible, as well as through the installation of several electric vehicle (EV) charging units on campus.

We value the work of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and are committed to working toward a more sustainable group of campuses, city, and region.

Sincerely,

Sheila Edwards Lange  Shouan Pan
President  Chancellor
Seattle Central College  Seattle Colleges