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Office of the President

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April 22, 2014

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Steering Committee,

On behalf of the BHSU faculty, staff, and students, I am pleased to affirm Black Hills State University's Sustainability Tracking and Rating System Submission. BHSU transforms lives through innovative academic programs and a dynamic learning community. Our university is located in a rural community and is defined by the success of our students.

The completion of this assessment is the latest step in our efforts to become a sustainable institution. In 2007 Black Hills State University became the first South Dakota institution to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, pledging carbon neutrality by 2020. Since then our University has taken many steps, including the drafting of a Climate Action Plan, adoption of Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED®) silver building standard, as well as many other initiatives outlined in this report to achieve our goal.

The assessment was made possible through the collaboration of students, staff, and faculty. The hard work and efforts of these individuals has allowed us to identify and acknowledge the sustainable aspects of our campus. The report has also helped us to identify initiatives for the improvement of our overall campus sustainability. We would like thank the Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for developing and sharing this tool. We look forward to continuing collaboration between our two organizations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kay Schallenkamp
Office of the President
Black Hills State University