



July 21, 2014

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

Western Michigan University is pleased to submit its first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. After careful review of WMU's full STARS data set, I affirm that the content of this report is accurate and representative of the university's sustainability efforts.

Western Michigan University's commitment to sustainability is highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan Goal #5: *Advance social, economic, and environmental sustainability practices and policies*. WMU has been, and continues to be, committed to building a culture of sustainability. In 2008, I proudly signed the Talloires Declaration, "the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education." WMU completed its first Climate Action Plan in 2012 and in 2014, WMU became a founding signatory of the Alliance for Resilient Campuses. I serve as a member of the President's Climate Commitment national steering committee.

Our portfolio of high-impact best practices ranges from being the first Kalamazoo River Watershed permittee to meet the state's Total Maximum Daily Load Reduction goal for phosphorus (50%) to create a path-breaking Sustainability Across Research and Teaching faculty development initiative. This is a campus with one of the nations' largest electric vehicle charging infrastructures and we have created a community sustainability incubator that supports a broad array of pro bono sustainability research and collaboration in our community.

For these and other efforts we have been recognized as a Michigan Green Leader by the Detroit Free Press (2013), a Sustainability Innovator by Planet Forward (2014), and winner of the Climate Leadership Award by Second Nature (2014). By pledging to be a sustainability leader and assessing our activities through STARS, we are ensuring that WMU's commitment to sustainability will continue as a strategic priority.

Through STARS, AASHE has done a wonderful job of bringing higher education institutions together and providing an assessment tool that encourages meaningful advancement of sustainability. We are thankful for the opportunity to participate in STARS and look forward to using the STARS process to further advance our sustainability and strategic plan implementation efforts.

Best regards,

John M. Dunn
President
Western Michigan University