

# Sterling College

Working Hands. Working Minds.

January 26, 2017

Ms. Meghan Fay Zahniser  
Executive Director  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St. Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Zahniser:

Sterling College was among the very first colleges to link our curriculum to concepts such as ecology, outdoor education, and sustainable agriculture. We have been advocating for sustainability for over 40 years. Sterling prepares students with a deep understanding of ecology of the natural world. Our graduates are ready to apply the critical, creative, and systems thinking necessary for a changing climate. They are dedicated to both protecting wild places and promoting a working landscape that contributes to a just food system.

Climate change has never been more real, and the need for a generation of engaged citizens to speak the truth to power has never been more urgent.

This is our third report to AASHE using the STARS reporting tool. I am affirming that all of the information in our submission has been checked for accuracy. Since our last report, we have moved towards even greater gains in sustainability.

In February of 2016, we installed 11 new solar trackers on campus. They, along with the two solar trackers that are already on campus, are enabling us to move to 100% solar power for our electrical use. We also launched the School of the New American Farmstead (SNAF), continuing education for those interested in ecological farming and integrated, community-centered food production. SNAF offered a variety of workshops, classes, and certifications to agrarians, culinarians, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners. Additionally, Sterling College is very pleased to see that Campus Pride ratings are being logged for STARS 2.1; this past year, our Campus Pride rating was raised to four stars, up from 3.5.

As we look ahead to the near future, we anticipate being able to renovate two buildings on campus in appropriate and ecologically sensitive ways; unlike many college campuses, ours is a collection of white clapboard houses dating from the 19th century. We are careful in our renovations from both an environmental and a historical perspective. We also look forward to more off-campus course offerings through our Field Program, thanks to support from The Endeavor Foundation; and to move ahead in eliminating fossil fuels to heat our buildings.

Thank you for your review of our submission.

Sincerely,



Matthew Derr  
President  
Sterling College