



The **Courage** to Question Convention.
The **Passion** to Break New Ground.
The **Insight** to Champion Community.
The **Imagination** to Pursue the Undiscovered.
The **Will** to Achieve Greatness.
The **Promise** of a Limitless Future.
The **People** to Bring It to Life.
It's Happening Here.

February 2016

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: University of Louisville STARS submission

As a charter participant in the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), the University of Louisville is proud to resubmit more recent data for an updated rating. We remain excited about our collaborations with other AASHE member institutions to lead the sustainability transformation in higher education.

UofL continues to use the STARS framework as our primary tool for monitoring university-wide progress on sustainability for several reasons:

1. It is the only system of its kind that involves publicly reporting comprehensive information about a college or university's sustainability performance in all three areas that matter most: education & research, operations, and planning, administration & engagement;
2. The criteria that determine a STARS rating are transparent and accessible to anyone, yet flexible enough to fit the special circumstances of any institution; and
3. The STARS system of earned credits allows us to not only monitor our own progress over time and to plan strategically, but to compare our sustainability performance with similar institutions throughout North America.

Participation in STARS has helped keep UofL accountable for making continual progress on our commitment to sustainability, as reflected in our 2020 Plan. After a considerable amount of internal investigation, data-gathering, and analysis over the last year, the University of Louisville is delighted to submit our second STARS report in support of our increasingly strong rating.

In achieving this new STARS rating, we continue to exceed our strategic sustainability goals – a genuine reflection of the tremendous strides we've made in everything from energy efficiency and climate action planning, to student and community engagement in sustainability, to the incorporation of sustainability themes in curriculum development and research agendas.

It is also a testament to the dedication of our Sustainability Council and the many faculty, staff and students from across our diverse University who are helping ensure that UofL continues to maintain outstanding academic performance and financial security while balancing environmental, social and economic concerns.

I hereby affirm the accuracy of the information contained in the University of Louisville's February 2016 STARS report and look forward to advancing our rating even further in coming years.

Sincerely,

James R. Ramsey
President, University of Louisville