

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**LA CROSSE**

May 10, 2015

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

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, I am pleased to submit our first Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report. I affirm that this report is our best effort to accurately represent sustainability activities and accomplishments that have occurred on our campus over the past three years. We look forward to learning about our official STARS rating.

As our STARS report indicates, the level of dedication and interest that students, staff, and faculty have on our campus is significant and inspiring. And though we are proud of our collective accomplishments, we also recognize that much work remains to be done. For example, it is clear that we need to share our sustainability story more widely on campus, including to new staff and administrators. There are other areas for improvement, which are larger, more transformative in nature, including how to embed sustainability into different areas of our curriculum, expanding outreach activities, and partnering with local businesses and organizations that are committed to sustainability practices. These are examples of activities which are on our list of “what’s next” for sustainability at UWL.

One last notable thought on the STARS process has to do more with the relationships that were developed than what was learned during the STARS process. The collaboration, communication and knowledge sharing that occurred across campus was truly inspiring. Having reached out to numerous departments, offices, students, and peers has helped the STARS team build strong relationships around campus and has increased our knowledge and appreciation for all that is happening at UWL.

Our participation in STARS provides a valuable measurement of past and current efforts that will assist us in determining our future sustainability initiatives at UWL.

Sincerely,



Joe Gow  
Chancellor

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