



April 6, 2015

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 901
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of the STARS Report Review Committee:

I am pleased to present the first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report from Joliet Junior College and to fully endorse this initiative on behalf of the campus community. Information provided for your review reflects our commitment to continuous quality improvement and culture of assessment.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, is a signatory on the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. The college's Sustainability Committee is comprised of dedicated faculty, staff and students who view sustainability holistically through an environmental, social equity and economic lens; educating students and citizens about sustainable practices is among the most viable ways we can contribute to assuring a sustainable future. Moreover, current and planned curricula reflect courses either integrating or fully dedicated to sustainability.

JJC also works closely with sustainable interests across Illinois and the tristate region, partnering with agencies including the Illinois Green Economy Network and the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium to actively address issues as diverse as renewable energy, bulk electrical purchasing, recycling, composting, water quality, conservation and regional transportation.

The college supports social equity through a number of efforts, like serving degree-seeking international students from as far away as Southeast Asia, providing financial assistance to under-represented populations through the JJC Foundation, and supporting a new bridge program assisting low income, first-generation and minority students make a smooth transition to college. Last year, we also opened a support center dedicated to meeting the needs of veterans.

Our 400-acre main campus includes a 127-acre natural savannah and 106-acre agricultural land laboratory producing harvested crops. We sponsor a seasonal Farmers' Market featuring locally grown food of every variety. Due to an established commitment by our Board of Trustees, the college has several Gold and Silver LEED-certified facilities.

The STARS initiative is a valuable tool that supports goal-setting consistent with our commitment while providing opportunity to incorporate these into our new 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. All work related to our STARS report was systematically conducted as a college-wide assessment and is highlighted on our Sustainable Campus web page: <http://www.jjc.edu/about/committees/sustainable-campus>. These collective milestones underscore a genuine and tangible commitment to sustainability.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra S. Daniels
President