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February 18, 2022

Dear AASHE STARS,

Fort Lewis College is a one-of-a-kind institution. We are a public liberal arts college rooted in place in the Southwest. Roughly 3,440 undergraduate students and 105 graduate students make up our student body. Our students are diverse; 59% are students of color, and 34% are Native American or Alaska Native, coming from 185 Tribes and Villages. The College emphasizes experiential learning, undergraduate research experiences, and leadership.

The College is dedicated to an integrated approach for sustainability that incorporates diversity and affordability, climate action, and waste re-purposing. Over the past year, we've advanced our Carbon Commitment and continue to be well beyond our target interim milestones. Last semester, we launched an e-bike library that rents e-bikes to students and employees at no-cost. We also ramped up our compost efforts and now compost 100% of dining hall waste. We have slashed emissions from purchased electricity by 80% since our baseline year. This dramatic decline has been achieved via a combination of efforts, including updating equipment on campus with efficient EnergyStar models, re-insulating buildings, using passive solar design, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and CFLs, installing photovoltaic systems across campus, and the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits.

Our annual Sustainability Initiative Grant seeds projects across campus. Last year, the grant supported a sustainability-themed drag show called *Drag Me to Mother Earth* that was preceded by a series of sewing workshops on repurposing clothing. The drag show featured kings and queens wearing outfits made from entirely re-purposed, up-cycled, or items purchased from a thrift store. Drag performers donated all their tips to the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center. The grant also funded an Indigenous foods workshops and a program that provided 200 free student veggie bags.

We are proud to be an example of what a small public college can do for sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Stritikus".

Tom Stritikus
President, Fort Lewis College