

February 23, 2015

Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

Following, please find the University of West Georgia's 2015 submission package. As president of the university, I affirm that data contained herein is accurate.

UWG has demonstrated a commitment to sustainable practices for a number of years. In fact:

- All major construction since 2011 has been built in compliance with the Georgia Peach green building standards;
- Our reduction in energy consumption was recognized by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in 2013 when UWG was awarded the Georgia Energy Challenge for achieving a 15% energy reduction;
- UWG has received the Tree Campus USA award every year since 2011; and
- UWG won Keep Carroll Beautiful's 2014 Environmental Excellence Award for our recycling program.

2014 was marked by an innovative partnership with the Carrollton Community to privately fund and construct 1.6 miles of the Carrollton Greenbelt through the heart of campus. This project is part of our ongoing commitment to develop more sustainable modes of transportation at UWG and the surrounding community.

In 2014, we also formally identified sustainability as a key initiative that impacts each of the four strategic imperatives of our strategic plan. Goal B of the Operational Success states:

Create a built environment that is sustainable and relevant to the educational and personal needs of students; the aspirations of faculty and staff; and the economic, social, and cultural needs of the community.

We will pursue this goal through three main actions:

- On an ongoing scheduled basis, assess the condition and suitability of campus facilities, technology, space utilization, and campus infrastructure, making sustainability a priority in all new construction, technology investments, and building modification projects;
- Partner with business and economic development organizations in activities that benefit UWG, its partner organizations, and sustainable economic and cultural development; and
- With individuals, foundations, and other service agencies, identify and develop partnerships and activities that improve our communities.

Further, a number of our faculty are actively engaged in research on societal, operational, and environmental impacts of sustainability, which fits well into our Academic Success strategic imperative.

Sustainability is also one of our newly-defined core values. Our strategic plan states:

The value of SUSTAINABILITY is evident in our obligation to maintaining ecological balance in our planning and operations that make possible for future generations the same or better quality of opportunities for success available to present employees and students.

Our complete strategic plan is available at <http://www.westga.edu/engagewest/1070.php>.

As we focus ever more intently on incorporating sustainability efforts into our day-to-day activities, we have set the following goals for future submissions:

- Continue to strengthen our academic commitment to sustainability through the development of sustainable programming and learning outcomes.
- Engage in an active partnership with the Carrollton community to promote cycling as a mode of transportation for students, faculty, and staff.
- Continue our operational efforts to reduce energy density, increase waste diversion, and engage our campus community in sustainable initiatives.

Please review the details of our activity set forth in the enclosed documents. We are excited about the opportunity to be considered for inclusion in the AASHE initiative and look forward to sharing our continued progress with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Marrero', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Kyle Marrero
President

Enclosures