



March 29, 2018

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

RE: AASHE STARS Survey Report – University of West Georgia

Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

Please find attached the University of West Georgia's 2018 AASHE STARS submission package. As president of the university, I affirm that the data herein is presented in good faith and has been reviewed for accuracy.

At UWG, sustainability is one of our core values. 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.

In 2014, we formally identified sustainability as a key initiative that impacts all four imperatives in our strategic plan. Goal B in 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.

Action 1: 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.

Action 2: Partner with business and economic development organizations in activities that benefit UWG, its partner organizations, and sustainable economic and cultural development.

Action 3: With individuals, foundations, and other service agencies, identify and develop partnerships and activities that improve our communities.

Our complete strategic plan is located at: <https://www.westga.edu/administration/president/uwg-strategic-plan-2014.php>

In 2015, we submitted our first AASHE STARS survey and we received a bronze certification. Since then, we have worked hard to meet our sustainability commitments as is evident from the improvement in our AASHE STARS score, which we believe to have improved by fifty percent. This has been the cumulative work of multiple divisions within the university, including the Center for Sustainability, which received a permanent budget in 2017.

Perhaps the most noteworthy achievement in furthering sustainability since our last submission has been our collaborative effort with the City of Carrollton and a number of strategic partners to establish a city-wide bike share program. UWG is a key partner of this initiative and has been especially active in fostering a bicycle culture on campus and in the community. The University now has a segment of the 16-mile-long Greenbelt pathway running through campus; we have two bike share stations on campus, and the campus was recently declared a bronze certified bicycle friendly campus.

Moving forward, we have developed a sustainability plan that seeks to improve our next AASHE score by at least 15%. Some concrete steps moving forward include:

- Continuing our academic commitment to sustainability through the development of sustainable programming and learning outcomes.
- Building on our active partnership with the Carrollton community to promote sustainable and healthy modes of transportation for our students, faculty, and staff.
- Implementing our recently developed guidelines for purchasing and energy/water management with the aim of reducing energy and decreasing waste.
- Continuing to engage our campus community in sustainability initiatives and exploring new avenues for involvement, for instance, through sustainability minded investment.

Please review the details of our activities in the submitted STARS survey and let us know if you have any questions. We are excited about being part of 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