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**Joanne Yestramski**  
Vice Chancellor for Finance  
and Operations

## OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

April 30, 2015

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UMass Lowell) is a school that has been transformed. With our robust offerings of high-quality academic programs, creation of state-of-the-art facilities and strong partnerships, UMass Lowell is on the leading edge of the knowledge economy. With our transformation, we have elevated our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. With that, we are pleased to submit UMass Lowell's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submittal. This submittal also represents the first initiative undertaken by UMass Lowell's newly formed Office of Sustainability launched in January 2015.

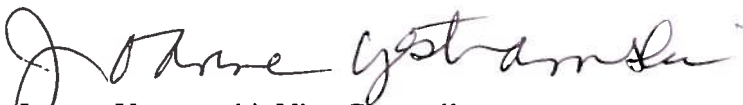
UMass Lowell made a conscious decision to accelerate its commitment to sustainability in the last several years and as a result has experienced numerous successful outcomes benefitting our entire campus community. This path to acceleration, initiated with the University's 2011 Climate Action Plan (CAP), was built on a strong foundation of greenhouse gas emissions reductions already present on campus. The resulting CAP Steering Committee, made up of senior officials from a cross section of the campus, has been the driving force for implementing the reductions set forth in the plan, acting through a series of Subcommittees focused on integrating sustainability into every cornerstone of campus life. One of the most exciting accomplishments of the CAP Steering Committee is participation in the Commonwealth's Accelerated Energy Program, which is a \$27M investment in implementing energy conservation measures leading to significant energy savings.

As part of advancing our growing reputation for excellence and commitment to continuous improvement, we took our vision for creating a visible sustainability presence further through the creation of the UMass Lowell Office of Sustainability. The creation of the Office of Sustainability dovetails with the current UMass Lowell 2020 Strategic Plan in which sustainability has been incorporated as a strategic priority. UMass Lowell's commitment to sustainability serves as a means to attract the best talent and engage the entire campus community to help our students become leaders in a changing world.

UMass Lowell is proud of the progress we have made toward sustainability and environmental stewardship on our campus and we are looking forward to continually advancing our efforts. STARS will support this goal in illustrating areas of focus that we can build upon. We are excited to be an active participant in this program and receive a robust first rating.

I verify that the information included in UMass Lowell's STARS submittal is an accurate reflection of our efforts and the involvement of so many to make our campus a better place now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Yestramski".

Joanne Yestramski, Vice Chancellor  
Finance and Operation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.T. Meehan".

Martin T. Meehan  
Chancellor