



Office of Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs

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March 29, 2016

Dear STARS Steering Committee Members:

I am pleased to provide to you South Dakota State University's Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) report. This is our first STARS report. Over the past several months, faculty, staff, and students have worked diligently to collect and analyze data. It is through their dedicated efforts that I can affirm the submitted data accurately displays South Dakota State University's sustainability efforts.

As stated in SDSU's strategic plan, *Impact 2018*, sustainability is a core value. The STARS report has provided an excellent way for us to document our efforts. More importantly, we are excited to use the STARS report as a baseline and guide to growing our sustainability efforts.

On behalf of many, I would like to take this opportunity to thank AASHE and STARS members for creating a standard for benchmarking sustainability in higher education. I also thank those members of our university who helped with the reporting process and who prepared this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Stenberg Nichols".

Laurie Stenberg Nichols
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs