



December 9, 2019

Dear STARS Committee Members:

I am pleased to provide the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) institutional report. We are submitting this document, our second STARS report, with great enthusiasm as we have seen improvement on our campus over the past four years and believe that we have achieved Silver Level status. The SDSU administration, faculty, staff, and students have worked diligently to collect the necessary data for this report. Due to the collective efforts of individuals throughout our university, I am able to affirm that the data in the report accurately represents SDSU's sustainability efforts.

The STARS report has provided us with an excellent instrument to document our institutional efforts. More importantly, we have adopted the STARS reporting process to establish a baseline assessment and as a tool to guide continuous improvement with our sustainability work. As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, I have also been delighted by the interest and engagement of our faculty in the area of sustainability, including the impact of sustainability on both our local community and the world as a whole.

On behalf of many at SDSU, I would truly like to thank AASHE and STARS members for developing standards for benchmarking sustainability in higher education. Your efforts, along with the work of members of our university team who assisted with the preparation of this report, are making a positive impact at SDSU.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis D. Hedge'.

Dennis D. Hedge, Pharm.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs