



January 19, 2024

STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability
In Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Committee Members:

California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is pleased to submit our third comprehensive campus-wide Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report. This report was prepared as a multistakeholder collaborative process with every division and many departments assisting with data collection and reporting efforts.

We are proud to share our sustainability strategies and achievements, including:

- Integrating Sustainability and Climate Justice as a core value in our campus Strategic Plan, The Power of Us. Our campus vision includes “being a national leader of social mobility... that drives intellectual engagement, innovation, and sustainability for a diverse, global society. Our exemplary academic programs will respond to societal needs and prepare students to be tomorrow’s socially just leaders and change makers.” Defining sustainability and climate justice for our campus and emphasizing its importance has been a huge milestone in actualizing our sustainability goals.
- Our Planet Mentorship Program, an Inclusive Sustainability Initiative, focused on student success and cultivating change makers. This mentorship program consists of a cohort of CSUSM students that use art and data visualization to illuminate how climate change and environmental injustices disproportionately impact marginalized communities.
- Award winning Climate Change and Resilience Faculty Learning Community gained recognition from AASHE and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. This multi-campus faculty learning community consisted of 62 faculty representing over 30 disciplines resulting in over 75 classes being redesigned to include greater engagement of climate change and resilience.
- Expansion of our Zero Waste Program, campus wide composting, bin standardization and a new Zero Waste Donation Pick Up Form. This form was created to streamline the process for diverting usable office supplies and materials and getting them into the hands of students, staff,

and faculty, recognized by the California Higher Education Collaborative and the Green California Schools & Higher Education Summit.

We recognize the value STARS provides to help highlight our successes and to shed light on the areas where we still have opportunities to grow. In the coming year, we plan to take a deeper dive into these growth areas with the goal of improving our STARS score during our next submission.

We are proud of our sustainability efforts at CSUSM. I affirm the data presented in our STARS submission to be true and accurate to the best of our abilities and reflects the numerous efforts we have undertaken to integrate sustainability, social justice, and resiliency across our campus and within CSUSM culture. We recognize the importance of educating our students on the interconnected nature of the social, environmental, and economic pillars of sustainability, understanding that this knowledge is necessary to prepare our students to be leaders in our region and beyond. We thank AASHE and the STARS program for providing the tools and resources necessary to continuously improve sustainability efforts within higher education and at CSUSM.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ellen J. Neufeldt
President