



December 16, 2020

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 second comprehensive campus-wide Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. This report was prepared as a multi-stakeholder collaborative process with every division and many departments assisting with data collection and reporting efforts.

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 into our campus 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.

At CSUSM we are very pleased to showcase some of our key and unique initiatives and programs, such as:

- Our Inclusive Sustainability Initiative: By placing student success at the center, this transformational framework connects our diversity and social justice work with our sustainability efforts. This work has garnered the attention of colleges and universities across the United States and we are very proud of curricular and co-curricular activities that have started to come to fruition.
- Connecting with our Basic Needs Initiative and Cougar Pantry: The Sustainable Food Project Garden has expanded to grow food for our on-campus food pantry and teach food justice to our students.
- Our new Sustainability Minor: Starting this Fall 2020 semester, students were able to declare sustainability as a minor. As we know, sustainability knowledge, skills and abilities are critical to all careers. This minor seeks to ensure our students are prepared to lead in whichever field they enter upon graduation.

As CSUSM continues to find innovative and creative ways to showcase our accomplishments and collaborate across the CSU and higher education nationally, we will use our STARS assessment to push the boundaries of our current initiatives and programs. We thank AASHE for continuing to better the STARS program and create meaningful metrics that higher education can use to evaluate sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen J. Neufeldt
President