



Date: December 20, 2013

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to verify that the information in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report for the University of South Florida accurately reflects our continued commitment to our strategic goal of creating a sustainable campus and community environment for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighborhood partners.

I am proud of our past efforts that helped earn the University of South Florida a Gold rating on our first STARS report in 2011. Over the past three years, we have increased and expanded our sustainability efforts, locally and globally. Since our last report, we have sponsored 3 Earth Day Celebrations, initiated a Student Green Energy Fund that has awarded over \$1.5 million to campus sustainability projects, expanded the role of the Office of Sustainability across campus, converted the School of Global Sustainability into the College of Global Sustainability with a stronger focus on sustainability curriculum and research.

In addition, we have numerous environmental awards and recognitions to provide evidence of our status as one of the "greenest" campuses in the country. In 2012, the University of South Florida received the Climate Leadership Award from the American College & University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Steering Committee and in 2012 and 2013 Sierra Club Magazine listed USF among the top 20 Coolest Schools in the nation. In 2013, the GreenMetric Ranking of World Universities placed USF among the top 50 Green School worldwide, and we recently made the Princeton Review's 2014 Green College Honor Roll. While these accomplishments are significant, being a 'sustainable campus' is an ongoing process that needs continuous monitoring, re-visioning, and application of sustainability practices. Our commitment to these principles inspired USF to enhance our sustainability efforts in all our education, research and daily practices.

I acknowledge and commend the Office of Sustainability for their dedication and hard work in coordinating our STARS reporting efforts. This attainment, in collaboration with many others in our university community, helped to achieve our strategic goals and reaffirm the University of South Florida as a global leader in sustainability.

Sincerely,



Judy Genshaft  
USF System President