

February 27, 2020

To the STARS Steering Committee:

I write today in endorsement of Calvin University's Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) data submission.

This data has been reviewed by Calvin faculty, staff, and the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Faculty Governance Committee. We believe our submission to be a conscientious assessment of the university's current level of activities related to sustainability.

Calvin recently received the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement (2020), and we believe the accountability that STARS offers is another way to sharpen our efforts in connecting and partnering with our community.

Calvin has a long tradition of encouraging care for creation and uses the STARS report as both a monitoring tool and a generative tool for internal planning.

Below is a list of highlights of what we learned from the STARS process this year.

1. Calvin's Engagement (EN) score increased by accounting for the summer programs and other educational activities of the Bunker Interpretive Center.
2. Calvin's Operations (OP) score increased because of reductions in energy, water, and food consumption, both overall and per campus user.
3. Calvin's Planning and Administration (PA) score increased because measurable sustainability targets were included as part of the Strategic Plan Scorecard.
4. Calvin's Academics (AC) score decreased because of a decrease in sustainability-related research as the Sustainability Major Project ended.

Calvin's leaders continue to be grateful for the AASHE STARS rating system, which provides a structure for measuring and improving the university's sustainability efforts. Thank you for this continued opportunity to externally validate and assess our sustainability efforts and receive valuable input as we work toward a sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Le Roy
President

MKL/sjc