

February 27, 2017

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

It is a pleasure for me to write this letter of endorsement to accompany the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) data submission for Calvin College. It has been thoroughly reviewed by our staff and the Energy and Environmental Sustainability Faculty Governance Committee. It is a good assessment of our current level of activities related to sustainability and diversity.

Calvin College has long been a supporter of sustainability efforts as a demonstration of our care for creation and our commitment to be good stewards of that creation which has been entrusted to us. The college has two key governing documents that reflect that commitment: (1) the college *Statement of Sustainability*, which provides a foundation for our sustainability work; and (2) the college *Strategic Plan*, adopted for 2014-2019, which highlights sustainability goals for our educational framework, scholarly agenda and operational practices.

Last calendar year, the college chartered a task force to develop actionable recommendations for ways to better integrate sustainability in and across the work of the college. That task force used data from our previous STARS submission as input into the recommendations. The final recommendations from the task force are currently under review by the highest levels of administration at the college.

The college has committed to collecting and reviewing the STARS data on an annual basis. The data forms a subset of the data we use in monitoring progress toward our Strategic Planning goals. This year we completed our second STARS submission and the process revealed that:

1. Engagement in the STARS process has broadened to cover more aspects of the campus, including dining services, human resources, investments, and more aspects of physical plant.
2. Engagement in the process has deepened. STARS data collection are part of the regular routine of most of the persons involved, and thinking along the suggestions in STARS is included in conversations.
3. The hard work of the initial submission was rewarded by making this and future submissions much less time-consuming.

We look forward to the future with continued efforts toward sustainability. We are grateful to AASHE and the STARS questionnaire for providing a structure for improving and measuring sustainability efforts on our campus and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to be accountable for what we have done and to help guide us in our future work.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Le Roy
President

MKL/sjc