



February 16, 2015

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 901
Denver, CO 80202

Re: University of Colorado Colorado Springs STARS submission

On behalf of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), I am pleased to provide and affirm our sustainability self-assessment using the Sustainability Tracking, Rating and Assessment System (STARS). Our comprehensive process for data collection and review conducted by staff and faculty, as well as students in the Office of Sustainability, includes many departments of the university. Upon final review from staff, I am satisfied that our submission at the Gold level rating is based on the best available data and represents the significant efforts and measurable progress by our campus community to exemplify sustainability leadership at both local and national levels.

Our staff and students continue to support STARS and work to make it the best standardized sustainability assessment tool in higher education.

Sustainability is a guiding component of our university's strategic plans and reflective of our values. As a rapidly growing institution, we accept the responsibility to model creative solutions to both minimize our impact on the environment and maximize our impacts on the community. Arguably the most important audience to engage in sustainability knowledge and action is our students. To that end, after a three year planning process, we are implementing the inclusion of sustainability within our general education goals, bridging all departments and majors. We believe this focus is critical toward contributing graduates prepared for leadership in this challenging era.

We are committed to continual improvement and integration of sustainability in the key areas identified by STARS, including Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning and Administration. As we pursue greater sustainability as an institution, we look forward to sharing our success and learning from other institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Shockley-Zalabak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pamela Shockley-Zalabak
Chancellor