



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

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Office of the Chancellor

1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
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January 22, 2011

**Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, Chancellor**  
STARS affirmation

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
213 ½ North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: University of Colorado at Colorado Springs STARS submission

On behalf of the University of Colorado at 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 Sustainable Development Minor capstone course, included all departments of the university. Upon final review, I am satisfied that our submission at the Silver 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.

I am proud that UCCS, along with many other excellent institutions, demonstrated our commitment to sustainability leadership in the multi-year development of STARS. Our participation in the pilot version allowed us to provide detailed feedback to help create a valuable assessment tool. As a Charter STARS Participant, we found this assessment process to be highly beneficial to establish baselines, recognize our accomplishments, and identify areas for further improvement. 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, this year we added sustainable development as one of 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.

I recognize that finishing the STARS assessment represents more of a beginning than a completion. We are committed to continual improvement and integration of sustainability in the key areas identified by STARS, including Education and Research, Operations, and Planning, Administration and Engagement. As we pursue greater sustainability as an institution, we look forward to sharing our success and learning from other institutions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Shockley-Zalabak  
Chancellor  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs



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