



**Richland
College**
of the
Dallas County
Community
College
District

August 2, 2011

RP11-032

AASHE STARS Steering Committee
213 ¼ North Limestone
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

RE: Richland College STARS Submission

Consistent with our Richland College vision *to be the best place we can be to learn, teach, and build sustainable local and world community*, I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of the data provided in this comprehensive self-assessment of Richland College's sustainability efforts. The results documented here represent the dedicated work of many Richland College faculty and staff and our collective commitment to this vision.



At Richland College we leverage our Malcolm Baldrige-inspired *Approach, Deploy, Learn, Integrate* cycles of continuous improvement to further our vision and to infuse the principles of sustainability into our work systems and processes across the college. Our commitment to the social dimension of sustainability is evident in the diversity of our students and employees, as well as in the progress we are making in closing the gaps in student success between all students and our historically underserved, under-resourced student groups. Our commitment to the economic development of our community is evident in the increasing numbers of students completing the core curriculum for transfer to universities and those completing associate degrees. Richland College has more than doubled our annual number of core curriculum completers in the last four years and has increased the number of degrees we award by 25% over the same period. Our commitment to the environmental dimension is evident in the increased efficiency of our college operations—most notably, a 3.9% reduction in emissions from Scope 1 and 2 sources from 2006 to 2010, despite a 26.5% increase in the square footage of building space we operate.



Although we take pride in our achievements thus far, we recognize that we still have much we can accomplish. Assessing our progress through STARS has provided a road map for our future efforts. Our participation in STARS will enable us to benchmark our progress and allow us to learn, share, and develop best practices with other institutions who share our commitment to campus sustainability.

Very truly yours,

Kathryn K. Eggleston, Ph.D.
Interim President
Richland College