



February 21, 2017

Dear Members of the STARS Steering Committee,

On behalf of the University of Central Florida, I am pleased to affirm our due diligence with our Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) 2017 submission.

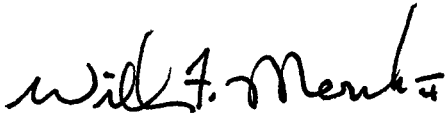
The University of Central Florida is a thriving preeminent research university located in metropolitan Orlando. Founded in June of 1963, we are a young university committed to bold, innovative, and energetic excellence to create a lasting and progressive impact on our world. In addition to being an academic, partnership and research leader in numerous fields—such as modeling and simulation, engineering and computer science, education, and hospitality management—UCF is a leader in creating a greener college campus for the 21st century.

In 2007, we committed ourselves to becoming climate neutral by 2050 and since then have made significant strides in creating the infrastructure that will get us there. Examples of our transdisciplinary research focused on sustainability include Renewable Energy Systems, Sustainable Coastal Systems, and Energy Conversion and Propulsion. At UCF, we have a myriad of interdisciplinary faculty, staff and student's committees employing a systems approach to key sustainability opportunities. Reducing our potable water consumption by 50 percent, increasing our renewable energy portfolio to 15 percent, and increasing our landfill diversion rate to 75 percent are among the many goals UCF teams are working towards.

We design our buildings more efficiently, employ the latest energy saving technologies, use cleaner energy, and conserve our natural resources. Our existing buildings use 38 percent less energy than when our efforts began. Like many of our peer institutions, UCF mandates Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for all new construction and major renovations. We meet a third of our campus energy demand by producing it onsite at our Combined Heat and Power Plant using natural gas rather than other fossil fuels, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent.

With more than 64,000 students, UCF is one of the largest universities in the United States. We recognize that our rapid growth has an impact on our campuses and beyond. This provides opportunities to devise more sustainable solutions to increase access, foster innovation, and create a positive impact on our global community. Our STARS submission outlines our many triumphs and illuminates the areas we are committed to improving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William F. Merck II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "W" and "M".

William F. Merck II

Vice President for Administration and Finance

Chief Financial Officer