

August 23, 2012

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

Dear Colleagues:

As the newly appointed President of Slippery Rock University, I am pleased to offer this STARS submission with a preliminary SILVER rating. This subsequent effort reflects the rapid pace of change taking place in the campus community to adopt sustainability initiatives addressing the growing social, environmental and economic concerns facing society today. Slippery Rock University is committed to focus on sustainability in our strategic planning efforts moving forward.

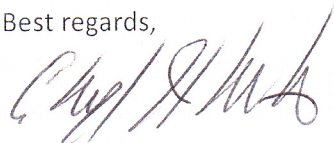
The university emerged as an early leader in the sustainability movement by offering the country's first master's program in sustainable systems in 1990. Founded the same year, the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research serves as a living laboratory for the demonstration of systems thinking, renewable energies, ecological agriculture and other environmental applications. The university also administers the McKeever Environmental Learning Center and the Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator.

I have found the STARS system to be an invaluable source of information with which to familiarize myself with the campus and surrounding community. It also provides benchmarks and identifies opportunities as to how we might further incorporate sustainability into the fabric of our academic programs, campus operation and community engagement.

This STARS submission reflects increased communication and reporting abilities as many information gaps were filled and inaccuracies corrected. A recent development and one of my first tasks as president at SRU included the finalization and approval of the ACUPCC Climate Action Plan. This document details our commitment and strategies necessary to reach climate neutrality within the next twenty-five years and additionally carries the broader mandate of promoting sustainability within our research, curriculum, professional development and community.

It is without hesitation that I submit and affirm that this report is an accurate reflection of Slippery Rock University's efforts to incorporate sustainability into academics, operations and the culture of the university. I look forward to implementing additional strategies and submitting future STARS reports as our sustainable initiatives continue to develop and unfold.

Best regards,



Cheryl J. Norton