

July 29, 2011

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

Dear Colleagues:

A sustainability ethic has defined life at Slippery Rock University since its founding in 1889, when the citizens of Slippery Rock Borough opened the University as a self-sufficient farm community operated by students and staff. Students helped farm the land, handled beef and dairy production, and preserved their own food.

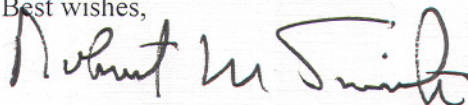
Although the University has grown considerably since those early days, the tradition of sustainability continues. We are proud to say it is part of our DNA. Sustainability is a key component in our mission to conduct scholarly research, promote professional performance and address the educationally related economic, health, environmental, social, cultural and recreational needs of the region we serve.

SRU, which pioneered greening education when it launched a master's program in sustainable systems in 1990, operates The Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research, which serves as a premier sustainability demonstration program and is a living laboratory for the demonstration of wind and solar power, agriculture and other environmental applications. The University administers the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education and the McKeever Environmental Learning Center. Most recently, we launched a Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator.

The completion of this STARS report documents our ongoing sustainability endeavors and grades those efforts with a preliminary BRONZE rating. It also provides valuable benchmarks and identifies opportunities as to how we might further incorporate sustainability into the fabric of our academic programs, campus operation and community engagement. We found the STARS system to be an invaluable tool to measure and manage the effectiveness of our efforts and look forward to using it to guide and improve our sustainability performance.

I am grateful for the dedication and diligence of all of our students, faculty and staff who have contributed to this report. Having witnessed the level of commitment to this project, I submit it without hesitation and affirm that this report is an accurate reflection of Slippery Rock University's efforts to embed sustainability, economic prosperity, community engagement and environmental stewardship as part of the culture and character of the University.

Best wishes,



Robert M. Smith