



February 16, 2015

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to submit Grand Valley State University's data for the 2014 AASHE STARS Assessment Report. This report is the result of a collaborative, university-wide effort and the expertise of committed faculty and staff. It will help to chart our path for future integrated sustainability initiatives. I affirm that the information included in this submission is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge and ability.

This STARS Assessment Report highlights the many extraordinary sustainability efforts at Grand Valley State University. From academic offerings to zero waste events, we are committed to offering faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to engage in a sustainable lifestyle. Our sustainable agriculture project, for example, continues to grow with respect to student participation and academic and community impact. I am pleased to share that we have established a new Campus Sustainability Advisory Council to advance our sustainability goals. I am also delighted to share that we ranked first in the state (for universities with over 20,000 students) and in the top 35 nationwide in the waste minimization category of the nationwide RecycleMania contest. We also ranked second in the national Game Day Challenge for diverting nearly 80% of waste at a football game, and received the "Keep Michigan Beautiful" award for composting over 30,000 pizza boxes in one year.

Grand Valley State University's Strategic Plan is built around seven values: community, effective teaching, inclusiveness, liberal education, scholarship, service, and sustainability. These values are embedded in our strategic goals, and as we achieve these goals, our values become intrinsic characteristics of the Grand Valley State University community. Since we connect sustainability to each of the other six values, sustainability infuses all aspects of our university.

We will continue to hold ourselves accountable for achieving these strategic goals, both as individuals and as integral parts of complex teams. In doing so, Grand Valley State University will continue to meet its most important mission, educating students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.

Very respectfully,


Thomas J. Haas
President

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