



Central Community College maximizes student and community success

March 3, 2023

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

Central Community College (CCC) in Nebraska is pleased to submit its Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Ratings System (STARS) report.

CCC has been a Cum Laude Leader since 2011 and is a signatory of the Climate Commitment as part of the Climate Leadership Network and the Sustainability Education & Economic Development (SEED) Initiative. We have made a commitment to educate, implement and model the practices needed for a sustainable future. For central Nebraska and beyond, we believe environmental sustainability is important and necessary for healthy communities, people, and economic sustainability.

The overall sustainability performance of the college has improved tremendously since committing to a climate action plan with target goals. Our environmental sustainability director has assisted CCC in these goals and shares best practices regularly with local, state, national and international audiences.

CCC's goals include being carbon neutral by 2034, and we're making strides toward greater resource conservation and sustainability each year. A major ongoing initiative from this report includes an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 75% since 2014. We are making great progress in implementing innovative sustainability strategies, including being a leader in the state through hosting the Sustainability Pavilion at the annual Nebraska State Fair, increased composting efforts, highlighting best practices for a World Wildlife Fund Climate Week spotlight and even having a Guinness Book of World Records winner. We continue to expand educational activities through eBadges, energy technology, sustainability clubs and newsletters.

I affirm that the AASHE STARS submission information has been compiled by the environmental sustainability director, his staff, and college-wide faculty, support staff and reviewed by Institutional Research. Our Gold STARS rating accurately represents CCC's FY21 sustainability efforts.

We are confident our collective efforts and overall engagement beyond our campuses in the 25-county service district will attract sustainability leaders to communities in central Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Gotschall, College President

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Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

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