



June 30, 2017

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher  
Education (AASHE)  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

As the public liberal arts university of the West, Southern Oregon University focuses on student learning, accessibility, and civic engagement that enriches both the community and bioregion. The university is recognized for fostering intellectual creativity, for quality and innovation in its connected learning programs, and for the educational benefits of its unique geographic location. SOU was the first university in Oregon—and one of the first in the nation—to offset 100 percent of its energy use with clean, renewable power, and it is now the first university in the nation to balance 100% of its water consumption with Water Restoration Certificates®.

SOU is pleased to be a continued participant in AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). After receiving its initial bronze rating in 2011, campus sustainability has flourished with the introduction of new academic and co-curricular programs, energy conservation measures, and the continued development of a campus culture of sustainability. The STARS reporting tool continues to spur conversations across campus, inspiring new partnerships and innovative approaches to sustainability. Additionally, STARS provides a snapshot of SOU's sustainability efforts for years past and aids the university in establishing goals for the future.

Since 2011, SOU has continued to promote sustainability as one of our core values, making several advances in campus programming, academics and operations. The campus continues to expand waste diversion efforts, increase renewable energy generation, and engage students through co-curricular programming and applied sustainability research and learning.

I look forward to SOU's continued participation as an AASHE member and STARS participant. I am delighted to affirm that SOU's STARS submission is an accurate and honest reflection of the university's sustainability practices, policies, and commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Linda Schott'.

Linda Schott  
President

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