

November 27, 2013

STARS Steering Committee  
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear STARS Steering Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter affirming the accuracy of information provided in our first STARS assessment report. This comprehensive assessment was a valuable exercise, reaffirming our commitment to sustainability.

SIU Carbondale has a history of leadership in sustainability. In February 1999, ours was the first campus in Illinois to sign the Talloires Declaration, and we have also committed to the Illinois Sustainable Universities Compact – soon to be renewing our obligation to that program for its 2015 revision.

Ten years later, following a successful student-led campaign, our Board of Trustees approved a Green Fee which has to date supported over \$1.35 million in sustainability projects, programming, and research. Also in 2009 our first Sustainability Council was appointed: nine members of equal parts students, faculty, and staff to steward the Green Fund and advise on other opportunities in university sustainability. We have added to that Council's achievements by hiring our first Sustainability Coordinator in July 2012, and establishing a new office for the Coordinator and her team in August of this year.

Our efforts have resulted in twice being listed in the Princeton Review list of Green Colleges, and this summer our new Transportation Education Center was certified LEED Silver. With completion of STARS, we add to our list of accomplishments while simultaneously identifying areas for further improvement. I look forward to seeing what other innovations our campus will implement to continue leading our region in a more sustainable direction.

Sincerely,



Rita Cheng  
Chancellor