November 7, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, I am pleased to present the results of our second campus assessment of sustainability using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). Since signing the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment in 2007 and becoming an AASHE member in 2008, sustainability has been and continues to be one of UW-Whitewater’s priorities.

This STARS report reflects our efforts to enhance our sustainable practices through implementation of institutional priorities in a variety of areas. We have a new institutional strategic plan and one of our goals establishes strengthening our resources through operational efficiency and effectiveness, which we pursue and accomplish through improvements in energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste management. The report shows our improved progress with infusing sustainability in academics as we continue to embrace the integration of the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ Liberal Education & America’s Promise (LEAP) Essential Learning Outcomes and develop our campus as a living laboratory for sustainability efforts. It also highlights our program’s success in engaging students in meaningful co-curricular sustainability opportunities that imbues them with experiences and knowledge important for active citizenship in the community and good stewardship of our natural resources. It also reflects another strategic goal to Foster Diversity and Inclusion and our strongly-held belief that a college education should be accessible to everyone who wants one.

Moreover, UW-Whitewater’s participation in STARS provides us with an excellent, comprehensive snapshot of our performance against a benchmark of best practices in campus sustainability. The results of this assessment will be used to help guide campus stakeholders to reinforce and maintain our successful programs and identify gaps where opportunities exist to develop a more robust sustainability program. My hope is that our sustainability program can encourage collaboration across a variety of departments at our university, as well as continued partnerships with our local community. In addition, I believe it will add depth to the strategies we are using to implement other of our new strategic goals as well as fulfilling our strategic priorities related to this important topic.

I affirm that the information included in our STARS report is accurate to the best of our abilities. We plan to continue the measurements of these indicators, at minimum, every three years to re-certify our STARS rating. We look forward to using the results from STARS to inform the campus community and general public of our efforts, to celebrate the successes we’ve already accomplished, and to understand how we can continue to make progress.

Sincerely,

Beverly Kopper
Chancellor