



Office of the President
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855-5301
906-227-2242 • FAX: 906-227-2249
Web site: www.nmu.edu

March 1, 2017

Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Northern Michigan University STARS Submission

Dear STARS Steering Committee Members,

Northern Michigan University is pleased to submit its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System Report to the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Through this detailed inventory process, we believe we have earned bronze status, an achievement in which we take great pride.

Protecting the environment and sustainability are among Northern's core values. In fact, they were among the most strongly supported ideals across all NMU stakeholder groups when the campus was selecting its core values in 2014. As part of our core values document we state, "The unparalleled rugged beauty of the physical environment at Northern's campus doorstep is something we admire, study, learn from, strive to protect and enjoy year-round. And like the Anishinaabe, we see a responsibility to plan for sustainability seven generations into the future."

While Northern Michigan University has been involved in sustainability efforts for decades, the STARS Report allowed us to more thoroughly document our collective work and celebrate our many campus-wide endeavors related to sustainability. For instance, we are immensely pleased to learn that 62% of our academic departments offer a sustainability course or include sustainability-related content in their course offerings. Of our tenure or tenure track faculty, nearly 20% are engaged in sustainability research. Of the total 204 acres of grounds that are actively managed by Northern, 47% are managed in accordance with an organic land care standard or sustainable landscape management program. The report highlights several promising trends such as these, which we look forward to sharing with prospective and current students, faculty and staff; alumni and donors; local community members; as well as state, regional and national policymakers.

As president of Northern Michigan University, it is my honor to endorse and affirm that NMU's STAR submission accurately reflects the sustainability initiatives and progress to date on our campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fritz J. Erickson", written over a horizontal line.

Fritz J Erickson, President
Northern Michigan University