February 1, 2017

Dear STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to submit Grand Valley State University’s data for the 2017 AASHE STARS Assessment Report. This report represents the collaborative efforts of a team of experts from every functional area of the university. I am confident that it will help to chart our path for future integrated sustainability initiatives. I affirm that the information included in this submission is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge and ability.

This STARS Assessment Report highlights the many extraordinary sustainability efforts at Grand Valley State University. From academic offerings to zero waste events, we are committed to offering faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to engage in a sustainable lifestyle. I am pleased to share we have partnered with Consumers Energy to build a three megawatt solar garden on our Allendale Campus. This has enabled us to expand our renewable energy educational opportunities. Our Sustainable Agriculture Project also continues to grow in many ways. Sustainable Agriculture Place-Based Project Grants are now available for faculty who wish to collaborate with students to study at the Sustainable Agriculture Project, and a record number of classes have studied there this year.

Grand Valley State University’s Strategic Plan is built around seven values: Community, effective teaching, inclusiveness, liberal education, scholarship, service, and sustainability. These values are embedded in our strategic goals, and as we achieve these goals, our values become intrinsic characteristics of the Grand Valley State University community.

We will continue to hold ourselves accountable for achieving these strategic goals, both as individuals and as integral parts of complex teams. In doing so, Grand Valley State University will continue to meet its most important mission, educating students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.

Very respectfully,

Thomas J. Haas
President