

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Illinois at Chicago Reaches for STARS

Chicago, Illinois – July 2, 2009- The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Office of Sustainability has published its first annual report on the sustainability of the campus as a whole.

The report utilizes indicators from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) for Colleges and Universities, developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. It is designed to provide a guide for advancing sustainability in all aspects of higher education, enable meaningful comparisons over time and across institutions, create incentives for continual improvement, facilitate collaboration and information sharing, and recognize sustainability achievements. UIC collected data as one of nearly 70 pilot sites.

The STARS Annual Report is intended as a frank assessment of UIC's strengths in the area of sustainability, to provide some metrics to track the progress towards its sustainability goals, and identifies areas that need more attention and action. While the report can be used to compare UIC to other campuses, the primary purpose is to inform campus planning decisions whenever possible.

Areas evaluated include Education and Research, Operations, and Administration and Finance.

The STARS evaluation has revealed that the University of Illinois at Chicago can celebrate its visibly rich diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. At the same time, UIC faces some challenges in quantifying resource flows that can facilitate the quantification necessary for measuring gains. The Campus Master Planning process and UIC's Climate Action Plan will further guide campus decision makers toward sustainability in its thinking, operations and community.

This report, together with UIC's Climate Action Plan and Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability and Energy reports, provide assessment and suggestions for process and programmatic changes aimed at making UIC a healthier and more efficient institution for everyone.

The report can be viewed at http://www.uic.edu/sustainability/reports/UIC.STARS_report.2009.pdf.

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