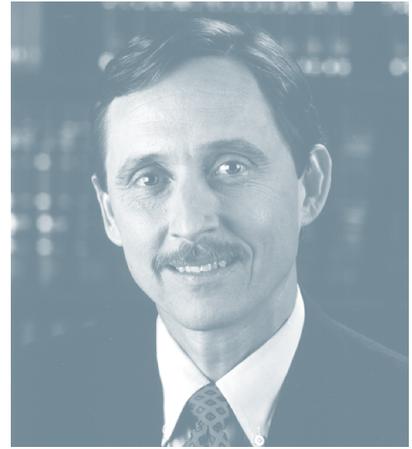


# Dear Reader,

As we seek to conserve wildlife and protect the earth's environment, it is fitting to look to our nation's colleges and universities for examples and leadership. Institutions of higher education, through their teaching, operations, and research, have long been at the forefront of addressing the world's most critical challenges. With growing human population and consumption continuing to stress the planet's natural resources, it is useful to ask how our institutions of higher learning are responding to the urgent need to better balance human needs with the health of the broader natural systems on which all forms of life depend.



This report is intended to provide an important part of the answer. Working with Dr. Mary McIntosh and her staff at Princeton Survey Research Associates, the National Wildlife Federation asked leaders of the nation's colleges and universities about the state of their campus environment. The responses from 891 institutions provide both good news and indications that much more work is needed. On the positive side, campuses are implementing green programs in everything from energy and water use to procurement and landscaping, with participation levels in some cases exceeding 80 percent. But while a number of colleges and universities stand out for educating students in all disciplines about sustainability, the survey found that, unless they are majoring in biology or environmental studies, students in many institutions may complete their studies without gaining basic environmental literacy.

The National Wildlife Federation is committed to using these findings as part of its ongoing effort to enhance the contribution of colleges and universities to addressing the environmental challenges facing our world. The facilities on all campuses should eventually emulate the best examples found in this survey. And ultimately, all institutions of higher learning must produce graduates with the environmental understanding needed to make sound personal, political and business decisions in the decades to come. To help advance that vision, the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology initiative has provided consultation to thousands of campus groups, conducted hundreds of training clinics, sponsored fellowships, and produced numerous print and on-line publications. We hope that this report will be another valuable tool for facilitating positive change, promoting constructive efforts on college campuses and beyond.

Mark Van Putten

President and Chief Executive Officer

National Wildlife Federation