



November 17, 2016

Dr. Carter File, President
Hutchinson Community College
1300 N. Plum
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Dear President File:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Hutchinson Community College (“the College” or “the institution”). At its meeting on November 3, 2016, the Board voted to approve the extension of accreditation to include the addition of a beauty college, formerly known as Sidney’s Beauty College, located in Hutchinson, Kansas within the structure of the accredited institution. Additionally, the Board granted approval of the new location in Hutchinson, Kansas (200 E. Third Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67501) and of the new Certificate program in Cosmetology. In taking this action, the Board considered materials submitted to the Commission including the Change of Control, Structure, or Organization Request, the Staff Summary Report, and the institution’s response to the Staff Summary Report.

The Board approved the application subject to the condition that, as required by Commission policy and federal regulation, the College host a focused evaluation within six months of the date of this transaction. The evaluation will be focused on the appropriateness of the approval and the institution’s compliance with any commitments made in the Change of Control application and with the Eligibility Requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation.

The Board maintained the College on the Open Pathway with the next Year 4 evaluation to take place in 2018-19 and the next evaluation for Reaffirmation of Accreditation to take place in 2025-26.

In this case, the College has already completed the lease and other arrangements including the beauty college in its structure. Therefore the focused visit will take place, rather than six months from the date of the closing of the transaction, within six months of Board approval of the extension of accreditation, or no later than May 2017.

At this time, the Commission will reassign the College from its liaison Dr. Karen Solomon, Vice President for Accreditation Relations and Director of the Standard Pathway, to Dr. Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President for Accreditation Relations. Please be assured that Dr. Solomon will work with Dr. Bordenkircher to create a smooth transition.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that the Commission publish this letter on its website. The College is encouraged to prepare

statements to its constituencies regarding this action; I ask that you copy Dr. Bordenkircher on any such communication.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. Please contact Dr. Bordenkircher if you have questions about any of the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Gellman-Danley".

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Hutchinson Community College
Cynthia Hoss, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Hutchinson Community College
Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Karen Solomon, Vice President for Accreditation Relations and Director of the Standard
Pathway, Higher Learning Commission
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs,
Higher Learning Commission
Blake Flanders, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kansas Board of Regents