September 23, 2016

Mr. William Maki
President
Rainy River Community College
1001 West Chestnut Street
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear President Maki:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Rainy River Community College by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on September 19, 2016. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution’s new status with HLC.

**Action with Interim Monitoring.** IAC continued the accreditation of Rainy River Community College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2026-27. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

**Interim Report.** An Interim Report due 10/1/17 on the institution’s compliance with MnSCU and RRCC’s own faculty credential policies and procedures.

**Interim Report.** An Interim Report due 10/1/18 on the establishment of a cycle for program review; evidence of completed reviews; and assessment of student learning and its linkages to the evaluation of operations, strategic planning, and budgeting.

**Rationale:** The institutional response summarizes the many resources available to Rainy River Community College (RRCC) as a function of its membership in the Northeast Higher Education District (NHED), which consists of five autonomous yet interdependent two-year colleges, and its membership in the Minnesota State System. The institutional response provides specifics on how NHED membership will assist the college with called-for improvements. For example, RRCC shares a provost and information technology administration with Mesabi Range Community College (MRCC), and MRCC will assist RRCC with assessment and the technical challenges of extracting data from a shared software system. RRCC can look to the other four colleges in the NHED for examples of and ideas for institutional effectiveness indicators.

In addition, the institutional response reports the appointment of a Director of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and indicates the College is considering joining the HLC’s Assessment Academy.

The IAC reviewers believe the institution and the intent of the accreditation review process would be better advanced by shifting the monitoring process to the less fiscally burdensome reporting mode.

Evidence of progress in the areas the team cites can be conveyed via reporting and the quality of the follow up need not be compromised by refraining from conducting a site visit.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the **Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report**, a resource for Accreditation Liaison Officers to review and manage information regarding the institution’s accreditation relationship. Accreditation Liaison Officers may request the ISR Report on HLC’s website at http://www.hlcommission.org/isr-request.
Information on notifying the public of this action is available at http://www.hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/institutional-reporting-of-actions.html.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution’s staff liaison Eric Martin. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

CC: ALO