



November 14, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Cynthia Lindquist, President  
Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
214 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
P.O. Box 269  
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Dear President Lindquist:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Cankdeska Cikana Community College (“the College” or “the institution”). At its meeting on November 2-3, 2017, the Board voted to remove the sanction of Probation from the College. This action is effective as of the date action was taken. The Board determined that removal of the sanction was warranted based on materials from the College’s most recent comprehensive evaluation including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the College submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (“IAC”) Hearing Committee, the institution’s responses to these reports, and other materials relevant to the evaluation.

The Board required that the College host a focused visit no later than September 2019, specifically addressing the following:

- Evidence that the College has fully implemented a program review process that embodies the essentials of good practice, that the results of that practice are fully documented, and that the results of those program reviews have led to discussions and appropriate decisions about course and/or program changes; and
- Evidence that the College has effectively integrated the outcomes of its program review process with assessment of student learning and strategic planning.

The Board placed the College on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2021-22.

The Board based its action on the following findings made in regard to the College:

The College has demonstrated that it meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A “the institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs,” but with concerns for the following reasons:

- The College has implemented a program review model with a five-year plan for reviewing all programs that is overseen by a Curriculum Committee and the Dean of Academics;
- The College provided evidence of a total of nine completed program reviews by the time of this HLC Board action;

- Although the College has made significant progress the current program review model is inadequate for the stated objectives in the College's Program Review Guide because it lacks the necessary assessment data, analysis, informed conclusions and follow-up to achieve those objectives;
- Although it has taken some initial steps to implement more formal procedures, the College acknowledged that much of what it knows about student success is still anecdotal; however
- The College joined the National Student Clearinghouse ("NSC") in 2016, has been submitting enrollment data to NSC's Tracker Service for graduates from 2008 to present, and is continually immersed in preparing more data for submission in an effort to enhance its ability to track the success of former students and the College's programs, and to better understand students who are not returning.

The College has demonstrated that it now meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, "the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning," for the following reasons:

- The College's faculty have identified learning outcomes for all courses, almost all academic programs, and general education;
- The College uses an assessment planning and reporting template to record program learning outcomes, measures, performance targets, a brief results summary, and planned follow-up;
- An Assessment Committee has been established to review assessment documents and provide feedback to faculty; and
- Faculty are beginning to react to assessment results by making instructional changes.

The College has demonstrated that it now meets Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, "the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs," for the following reasons:

- The College has implemented a five-year Enrollment Management Plan that includes goals for recruitment, persistence, and completion;
- An Enrollment Management Committee, whose membership includes faculty and student support personnel, is responsible for identifying and pursuing strategies to attain the College's goals in the five-year plan; and
- The College has joined a tribal college cohort in a two-year Achieving the Dream initiative and has already begun to benefit from improved understanding of its persistence, retention and completion from this initiative.

The College has demonstrated that it now meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C "the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning," for the following reasons:

- The College has updated its Strategic Plan, approved in January 2017, that includes revisions to the original six goals and the addition of two new goals to be addressed over the next five years. The College reviews its Plan annually; and
- Each goal articulated in the Strategic Plan has identified objectives, strategies and tasks, an account of the anticipated impact on the College, and an implementation timeline.

The College has demonstrated that it now meets Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D "the institution works systematically to improve its performance," for the following reasons:

- The College conducted a comprehensive community assessment to identify community health and wellness needs, and to ascertain barriers residents might face in enrollment and completion; and
- The College has collected data and begun addressing operational activity such as transportation services, food services, information technology, and the bookstore with the goal of improving quality for faculty, staff and the community.

The College has demonstrated that it is otherwise in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices and Federal Compliance requirements.

The Board action resulted in changes to the affiliation of the College. These changes are reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Information is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. Commission policy INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information, anticipates that HLC will release action letters to members of the public. The Commission will do so by posting this action letter to its website. Also, the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than 24 hours after this letter is sent to you.

In addition, Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the College.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

Enclosure: Public Disclosure Notice

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
Stuart Young, Dean of Administration, Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
Evaluation team chair  
Institutional Actions Council Hearing Committee chair  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs,  
Higher Learning Commission