

March 5, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Rolando Garcia
President
North Hennepin Community College
7411 85th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Dear President Garcia:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning North Hennepin Community College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, February 29, 2024. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Board reaffirmed the accreditation of the Institution with interim monitoring. The Institution meets Core Components 3.A, 4.B and 4.C with concerns. The Institution is required to host a Focused Visit, as outlined below, no later than October 2026.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

North Hennepin Community College (“the Institution”) meets, but with concerns, Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the rigor of the institution’s academic offerings is appropriate to higher education,” for the following reason:

- The Institution remains in the process of auditing course descriptions and course learning outcomes across all modalities and locations to ensure alignment across its offerings.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution engages in ongoing assessment of student learning as part of its commitment to the educational outcomes of its students,” for the following reasons:

- Although the Institution has made strides in its assessment processes, many processes are too new to have generated assessment data that can be used for the purposes of improving student learning;
- The Institution is in the process of adding requirements for using and assessing accurate course outcomes on syllabi; and
- Assessment of curriculum will be embedded in the program review processes and all curricula will be assessed within the 5-year assessment cycle.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Four, Core Component 4.C, “the institution pursues educational improvement through goals and strategies that improve retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has unrealistic goals in enrollment given the data presented;
- Although the Institution has goals on increasing enrollment of non-traditional students, there are concerns regarding its lack of support for adult education;
- There are no goals for recruitment or retention of dual credit students; and
- The Institution needs to develop updated plans for improving retention, including plans specific to its subpopulations, and articulate its progress regarding those goals within the institution’s updated Strategic Plan.

The Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission has determined based on the preceding findings and evidence in the record that the Institution has demonstrated that it is otherwise in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Federal Compliance requirements.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Focused Visit: The Board required that the Institution host a Focused Visit regarding Core Components 3.A, 4.B and 4.C no later than October 2026.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution has been placed on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation (Year 4) in 2027-28.

HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution’s Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

HLC policy¹ requires that a summary of Board actions be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. It also will be published on HLC’s website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

¹ COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Thomas Bordenkircher.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Dena Colemer, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, North Hennepin
Community College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission