November 8, 2021

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Dr. Stanley Fields, President
Morton College
3801 S. Central Ave.
Cicero, IL 60804

Dear President Fields:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Morton College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 4, 2021.

Summary of the Action: The Board extended the Institution’s period for Notice, as outlined below.

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:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose an imminent threat to members of the public.

As a result of the pandemic, HLC determined that review of the Notice sanction of Morton College (“the Institution”) should occur at the HLC Board of Trustees meeting in February 2022.

The Board may grant an extension of Notice on the basis of the pandemic.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Notice: The Institution’s Statement of Affiliation Status will be updated with a Public Disclosure Notice indicating that an extension of Notice has been granted until February 2022 due to COVID-19. The Institution will have the opportunity to participate in any procedural requirements applicable to the Notice process.
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.

In accordance with HLC policy,¹ information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. This Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC’s website not more than one business day after this letter is sent to the Institution. Additionally, a summary of Board actions will be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. This summary also will be published on HLC’s website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

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. Linnea Stenson.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Morton College
    Keith McLaughlin, Provost, Morton College
    Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
    Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education
    Linnea A. Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
    Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning Commission