

May 08, 2020

Dr. John Miller  
President  
Williston State College  
1410 University Avenue  
Williston, ND 58801

Dear President Miller:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Williston State College by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on May 05, 2020. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

**Action.** IAC continued the accreditation of Williston State College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2029-30.

**Rationale:** IAC determined there was not enough evidence in the team report to support the evaluation recommendation for a focused visit. The team identified concerns about faculty qualifications, but the institution has a waiver extending their time to come into compliance with faculty qualifications by September 1, 2022, which means a focused visit by March 2021 would not be able to review issues concerning faculty qualifications. The team's comment about high staff turnover was made in the context of a booming regional economy. According to the team report, the institution mitigates this with cross-training and sharing services with other North Dakota institutions. The institution appears to be facing reality and dealing with turnover appropriately. The remaining area of concern identified for review by a focused visit: improvement to use of data to identify areas of improvement was not supported by evidence in the team report.

In taking this action, the IAC considered materials from the most recent evaluation and the institutional response (if applicable) to the evaluation findings.

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 <https://www.hlcommission.org/isr-request>.

Within the next 30 days, HLC will also publish information about this action on its website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/recent-actions.html>.

Please note: Revisions to HLC's Criteria for Accreditation will go into effect on September 1, 2020. Institutions will be evaluated against the revised Criteria for all reviews conducted after that date, including reviews related to previously assigned monitoring. Institutional reports submitted after September 1, 2020, that reference the Criteria should be written to the revised version. More information about the revised Criteria, including a crosswalk between the current and revised versions, is available on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/criteria>.

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

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: ALO