Public Statement on Approval of Change of Control, Structure, or Organization Application by Purdue University and Kaplan University
March 5, 2018

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on February 22, 2018 approved the Change of Control, Structure or Organization application by Purdue University and Kaplan University to create Purdue University Global, which will remain a separately accredited institution and become a component of the Purdue University System.

HLC took this action consistent with its established review process and decision-making procedures. The process, which followed the April 2017 application filing by the two universities, included:

- Review of prior approvals required at both the state and federal levels by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education; and relevant documentation supporting both approvals.

- Campus visits by a team consisting of HLC peer reviewers and HLC staff, including listening forums for stakeholders during those visits to both campuses.

- Documentation of those campus visits in a summary report, as well as the provision for institutional response to cite possible errors of fact within the report, consistent with HLC practice to ensure openness and accuracy.

- HLC Board of Trustee consideration of the report and the institution’s written response prior to the Board’s February meeting.

- HLC Board review of a wide range of comments that HLC collected during in-person campus meetings, as well as emails and letters that HLC received from different stakeholders with the campus communities and other interested parties.

“The HLC Board of Trustees kept the best interests of students front and center throughout, took a thoughtful, rigorous approach and diligently considered all the materials that reviewers assembled and interested parties submitted these past several months,” said HLC President Barbara Gellman-Danley, Ph.D. “Following this approval, HLC will continue to exercise appropriate oversight to ensure that the innovative approach of this new model fulfills its promise to students.”

As part of the approval, HLC reviewers will visit both campuses within six months, looking at strategic planning to incorporate Purdue University Global, the autonomy of its governing board, transfer and articulation agreements within the system, and integration of Purdue University Global into the Purdue University System.

About the Higher Learning Commission
The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.