

November 11, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Keith McLaughlin
President
Morton College
3801 S. Central Ave.
Cicero, IL 60804-4398

Dear President McLaughlin:

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 6, 2025. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the recent Notice visit, including, but not limited to: the Notice report the Institution submitted, the report from the Notice Visit team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Meeting Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Board determined that the Institution is no longer at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and removed the Institution from Notice. The Institution meets Core Components 2.A, 2.C, and 5.C with concerns. The Institution is required to submit an interim report, as outlined below, with its next Assurance Filing.

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:

Morton College (“the Institution”) continues to meet with concerns Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A, “the institution establishes and follows policies and processes to ensure fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty and staff,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has made strides to improve policy and procedure. However, several areas of policy are still confusing and/or contradictory. The Institution is conducting a full policy review, although the work there is not yet complete.
- The Institution’s Board has begun to improve its regular meetings by engaging in more collaborative and meaningful agenda creation, moving items that require discussion off the consent agenda and removing items that require no board action to informational items.

The Institution continues to meet with concerns Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C, “the governing board of the institution is autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution in compliance with board policies and to ensure the institution’s integrity,” for the following reasons:

- The Board of the Institution is developing common board practices to improve its practices regarding oversight of the Institution, including improved agendas and decorum. These practices are moving forward as works-in-progress but will take time to demonstrate continued success.

The Institution continues to meet with concerns Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, “the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has begun to implement practices to better engage employees in the budget process, to link assessment of student learning in program outcomes to the budgeting process, and to better involve employees in the planning process. While the College has begun these processes, more time is needed to determine the success of the initiatives.

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 otherwise demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation, Assumed Practices, and Federal Compliance Requirements and is not at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria, and thus, should be removed from Notice.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Interim Report: The Board required that the Institution submit an interim report regarding Core Components 2.A, 2.C, and 5.C with its next Assurance Filing.¹

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Board maintained the Institution on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2026-27.

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.

¹ Please note: Revisions to HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices went into effect on September 1, 2025. Institutions will be evaluated against these revised HLC requirements for all reviews conducted after that date, including reviews related to previously assigned monitoring. Institutional reports submitted on or after September 1, 2025, or institutional reports or Assurance Arguments for visits that will take place on or after September 1, 2025, should be written to the revised version of the Criteria or Assumed Practices as applicable. More information, including a crosswalk between the previous and revised versions of the Criteria, is available on HLC’s website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/criteria/>.

In accordance with HLC policy,² 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Morton College
Sean Lamar Hudson, Director of Institutional Research, Morton College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Meeting Committee Chair
Nkechi Onwuameze, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of
Higher Education
Linnea A. Stenson, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission

² COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements