

November 6, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Jonathan Gueverra
President and CEO
The College of the Florida Keys
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040

Dear President Gueverra:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning The College of the Florida Keys (“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 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 Institution has been granted initial accreditation.

The Institution is approved at the following program levels: Associate’s, Bachelor’s. The Institution is not approved at the following program levels: Master’s, Specialist, Doctoral.

The Institution is required to submit an embedded Interim Report with its next Assurance Filing regarding Core Component 4.B.¹

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 College of the Florida Keys (“the Institution”) meets the Eligibility Requirements, Federal Compliance Requirements, and Assumed Practices without any concerns.

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/>.

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 reason:

- Although the Institution has a process for the assessment of student learning, action plans based on general education assessment results should more clearly document outcomes and any changes made based on assessment data.

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, Eligibility Requirements, and Federal Compliance Requirements and meets the requirements for Initial Accreditation.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Interim Report: The Institution submit an embedded Interim Report with its next Assurance Filing regarding Core Component 4.B.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution is assigned to the Standard Pathway for its initial ten-year cycle. An institution in its first cycle of accreditation undergoes a comprehensive evaluation and is considered for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 of the ten-year cycle. The Institution will host its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2029-30.

If reaffirmation of accreditation is granted in Year 4, the Institution moves to Year 5. If determined eligible to choose a pathway at that time, an institution that had been granted initial accreditation through the accelerated process, as is the case with the Institution, may choose a different pathway following its comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in Year 4 to complete the ten-year cycle.²

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 policy³ 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.

² INST.C.10.050, Pathways and Related Process Requirements; INST.C.10.010, Substantive Requirements for Reaffirmation of Accreditation

³ COMMA.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. Andrew Lootens-White.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley".

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, The College of the Florida Keys
Brittany Snyder, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, The College of
the Florida Keys
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Evaluation Team Chair
Andrew Lootens-White, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission
Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges, Florida Department of
Education
Elizabeth Daggett, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education