



Wayne County Community College District

District Office – Office of the Chancellor – Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

801 W. Fort Street

Detroit, MI 48226

(313) 496-2510

(313) 961-9439 fax

MEMORANDUM

TO: WCCCD Faculty and Staff

FROM: Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

DATE: April 28, 2020

SUBJECT: **Site Visit to WCCCD by Higher Learning Commission Consultant/Evaluator Team**

We are now looking forward to the final stage of the current regional re-accreditation cycle. WCCCD will have a virtual visit by a consultant/evaluator team appointed by the Higher Learning Commission on May 11th and 12th. This evaluative visit will be the culmination of a comprehensive assurance argument based on the input and efforts of the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff members who have been deeply involved for the past three years. I wish to thank all of the faculty and staff members who have worked so diligently during the re-accreditation process to affirm WCCCD's effectiveness and its capacity and agility to sustain and advance its mission in the future.

In the coming days, members of the HLC consultant/evaluator team will be conducting individual and group interviews through video conferencing. I know that you are as excited about their visit as we all are. The members of the team are our colleagues from other community colleges and their purpose is to support and assist in the continuous improvement of WCCCD. To aid in your preparation for the May site visit, we have summarized below the purpose, theme, and results of the re-accreditation process that was completed this Spring. While being granted continuing accreditation status by HLC is important, the primary objective is to utilize the process as an integral part of WCCCD's self-evaluation and continuous improvement efforts. The re-accreditation process includes a comprehensive evaluation of evidence to demonstrate that WCCCD meets the following criteria established by HLC:

1. **Mission:** focus on evidence that WCCCD operates and provides educational opportunities that are diverse and responsive to the needs of its community to achieve its mission.
2. **Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct:** focus on evidence that WCCCD operates with integrity facilitated by policies, procedures, and ethical practices to achieve its mission and maintain transparency and accountability.
3. **Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support:** focus on evidence that WCCCD provides quality educational opportunities that are consistent and aligned to academic and workforce standards that support dual enrollment, academic, training programs, and distance learning.

4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement: focus on evidence that WCCCD evaluates student learning, program, and institutional effectiveness to improve teaching, learning, and student success.

5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness: focus on evidence of WCCCD's maintaining the physical, human, and technological resources needed while ensuring inclusive planning processes for budget development, management, and strategic planning considering higher education and global trends.

The theme of the assurance argument completed during the past three years is "Building a Culture of Evidence One Criterion at a Time." Specifically, the assurance argument highlights achievements and improvements to its programs, services, facilities, structures, and processes that have been transformed during the past decade. WCCCD outlines its strengths and areas for further improvement which can serve as the basis for the next stage of institutional development. Hopefully, the HLC informational materials provided with bookmarks, website, and weekend memos have been helpful in providing information related to the process.

WCCCD continues to work with the HLC to host the site visit through alternative methods to include video conferencing from the District Office in accordance to social distancing requirements. Despite challenges from COVID-19, I am very confident that WCCCD will be awarded continued accreditation by HLC. Thus, WCCCD's students will continue to be eligible for federal financial aid, credits earned by students at WCCCD will continue to transfer to other colleges and universities, and the public will have another affirmation that WCCCD operates effectively and with integrity and has the capacity and agility to sustain and advance its mission in the future.

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