



November 20, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Stephen Nacco, President
Danville Area Community College
2000 E. Main St.
Danville, IL 61832

Dear President Nacco:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Danville Area Community College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 7, 2019. 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 Board reaffirmed the accreditation of the Institution. The Institution meets Core Components 3.A, 4.B, and 5.D with concerns. The Institution is required to host a Focused Visit, as outlined below, no later than fall 2021.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution:

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Three, Core Component 3.A, “the institution’s degree programs are appropriate to higher education,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution identified inconsistencies in its course learning outcomes while preparing its Assurance Argument in 2018, and work commenced to remedy the issues ahead of the visit.
- A newly appointed Director of Assessment is now leading the process of systematizing learning outcomes across multi-section courses and different delivery modalities.
- Master syllabi have been developed in collaboration with faculty that ensure consistency in course-level learning with clear connection to program-level learning outcomes.

- However, the Institution has lacked until recently a cabinet-level appointment to ensure continued progress in aligning course and program outcomes, and to ensure that results from assessment activities lead to demonstrable improvement.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Four, Core Component 4.B, “the institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning,” for the following reasons:

- Through its participation in Achieving the Dream, the Institution has demonstrated its ability to collect and act upon data for purposes of improvement.
- A lead faculty member and a cabinet-level leader have been identified to advance the Institution’s work related to assessment of student learning.
- Although the Institution demonstrates ongoing commitment to improvement, it must still define what co-curricular programs and related assessments mean in its context and ensure that co-curricular experiences are available to students.
- The Institution needs to demonstrate that assessment is tied to its budgeting processes.

The Institution meets, but with concerns, Criterion Five, Core Component 5.D, “the institution works systematically to improve its performance,” for the following reasons:

- The Institution has developed and implemented a new Data Governance policy.
- The Institution has a Strategic Planning Matrix that includes goals and desired outcomes supported by tangible measures.
- However, the Institution needs to commit to tracking only those goals that are truly of highest priority given the numerous goals included in the Strategic Planning Matrix.
- The Institution still needs to establish a strategy for providing data to those who need it, including students and the wider public.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Focused Visit: The Board required that the Institution host a Focused Visit regarding Core Components 3.A, 4.B, and 5.D, as outlined in the August 2019 Institutional Actions Council Hearing Report, no later than fall 2021.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution has been placed on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation (Year 4) in 2023-24.

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 policy¹ 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.

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. Eric Martin.

Sincerely,

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

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Cc: Robert Mattson, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, Danville
Area Community College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Eric Martin, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Higher Learning Commission
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning
Commission

¹ COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements