



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

May 9, 2018

Barbara Gellman-Danley, President
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1413

Dear Dr. Gellman-Danley:

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of recognition of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission (HLC). U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

Both the Department staff and the NACIQI recommended that I grant HLC renewed federal recognition for a period of five years. I concur with those recommendations and grant renewed recognition to HLC for a period of five years.

Scope of Recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, including the tribal institutions and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education and correspondence education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the Institutional Actions Council jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions on cases for continued accreditation or reaffirmation, and continued candidacy, and to the Appeals Body jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions related to initial candidacy or accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of the HLC. We appreciate their work to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

Diane Auer Jones
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Postsecondary Education

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