



November 17, 2016

Dan King, President  
Red Lake Nation College  
15480 Migizi Dr.  
P.O. Box 576  
Red Lake, MN 56671

Dear President King:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Red Lake Nation College (“the College” or “the institution”). During its meeting on November 3, 2016, the Board voted to grant the College the status of Candidate for Accreditation. The College is a candidate for accreditation approved to offer the Associate of Arts in Liberal Education and the Associate of Applied Science in Social and Behavioral Sciences with additional Associate’s degrees and certificates subject to HLC review under applicable substantive change policy. The action is effective as of the date the Board acted. In taking this action, the Board considered the Assurance Argument submitted by the College, the report of the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council Hearing Committee, and the College’s responses to these reports.

The term of candidacy is four years. A candidate for accreditation must have an evaluation, known as a biennial evaluation, two years after the grant of candidacy to determine whether the institution is making reasonable progress toward meeting accreditation requirements by the end of the candidacy period. The Board action schedules the College’s biennial evaluation for Spring 2018. The College will be scheduled for an evaluation for initial accreditation in Spring 2020.

The Board based its action on the following finding made with regard to the College:

The College has demonstrated that it meets the requirements for candidacy including meeting the Eligibility Requirements, demonstrating conformity with the Assumed Practices within the Criteria for Accreditation, and providing sufficient evidence that it can reasonably meet the Criteria for Accreditation within the four-year candidacy period.

The Board action resulted in changes to the affiliation of the College. These changes are reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

At this time, the Commission will reassign the College from its liaison Dr. Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, to Dr. Mary Vanis, Vice President for Accreditation

Relations. Please be assured that Dr. Sweeney will work with Dr. Vanis to create a smooth transition.

In addition, HLC Policy INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information, anticipates that HLC will release action letters related to the granting of candidacy to the public. The Commission will do so by posting this action letter on the HLC website.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website. The summary will include the HLC Board action regarding the College. The College may choose to prepare statements to its constituencies regarding this action; I ask that you copy your staff liaison, Dr. Vanis, on any such communication.

Please be aware of Commission policy on planned or proposed institutional changes that require notification to the Commission or approval by the Commission before their initiation. You will find the Commission's substantive change policies and procedures on the website. If you have any questions about how planned institutional changes might affect your relationship with the Commission or about the requirements of the candidacy program, please call or write Dr. Vanis.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. If you have questions about the information in this letter, please contact Dr. Vanis.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Red Lake Nation College  
Mandy Schram, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Red Lake Nation College  
Evaluation Team Members  
Mary Vanis, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission  
Karen Peterson Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission  
Larry Pogemiller, Commissioner, Minnesota Office of Higher Education