



"Preserving the Past, Cultivating Futures"

Robert Bible, President
rbible@mcn-nsn.gov

P.O. Box 917
2170 Raven Circle
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918.549.2800
FAX: 918.549.2008

November 16, 2016

Dear Friends of the College of the Muscogee Nation:

Today we were notified that CMN has been awarded Initial Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission; this is without a doubt a pinnacle in our journey to become a quality institution of higher education for our students. Since opening the College of the Muscogee Nation (Mvskoke Etlwv Nakcokv Mvhakv Svhlwecvt) a short 12 years ago, CMN has achieved numerous milestones with the assistance of our tribal leaders, tribal communities, and the higher education network. The college has deep roots and with that we also acknowledge our ancestors who started this legacy of Muscogee (Creek) education.

In planning for our Initial Accreditation, the College has been fully involved in the process of self-assessment, evaluating our programs and systems to determine consistency with our mission, and in meeting the Higher Learning Commission's standards. Initial Accreditation has always been a primary goal for CMN in building this college, and the momentum must continue.

Leading up to this point, CMN has completed for the Higher Learning Commission: an Eligibility Study (2008), a successful interview to establish Accreditation Eligibility (2009), and a Preliminary Information Document (2011) to prepare for Candidacy. A Self-Study, site visit, and a successful interview by the HLC Institutional Actions Council were completed prior to receiving Candidacy from the HLC Board of Trustees in 2012. In 2016, an Assurance Argument and Accreditation site visit were completed, as well as the Institutional Actions Council interview, with the HLC Board of Trustees awarding Initial Accreditation.

Dr. King and I are appreciative of your support in this historical event and we say mvto (thank you) to each of you. With this accreditation we will not stop growing but will continue to build and develop this college for the primary purpose of providing quality education for our students.


President, Robert Bible


Regents Director for Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. James King



November 16, 2016

Robert Bible, President
College of the Muscogee Nation
P.O. Box 917
2170 Raven Circle
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear President Bible:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (“HLC” or “the Commission”) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning College of the Muscogee Nation (“the College” or “the institution”). During its meeting on November 3, 2016, the Board voted to grant initial accreditation to the College. The College is accredited to offer Associate’s degrees and certificates consistent with its mission and subject to HLC review under applicable substantive change policy. 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 (“IAC”) Hearing Committee, and the College’s response to these reports.

The College 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. If reaffirmation of accreditation is granted in Year 4, the institution moves to Year 5 and continues on the Standard Pathway until it completes the ten-year cycle. The College will host its first review for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2020-21.

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

The College has demonstrated that it has addressed the Commission’s previous concerns related to 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:

- Faculty have developed measurement strategies and tools to assess general education coursework as well as rubrics that are used for writing projects and presentations at both the general education and program level;
- The College has formed a Co-Curricular Assessment Committee and established co-curricular program learning outcomes that have been placed on a four-year cycle of assessment; and
- Evidence presented by the College demonstrates that the assessment process has taken on a team approach that is faculty-driven.

The College has demonstrated that it otherwise meets all the Eligibility Requirements, the Assumed Practices, the Federal Compliance requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation, including all Core Components.

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. Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President for Accreditation Relations. Please be assured that Dr. Sweeney will work with Dr. Bordenkircher to create a smooth transition.

In addition, HLC policy INST.G.10.010, Management of Commission Information, anticipates that the HLC will release action letters related to the granting of accreditation 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 HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Bordenkircher, on any such communication.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, College of the Muscogee Nation
Dr. James King, Regents Director of Institutional Effectiveness, College of the Muscogee Nation
Evaluation team members
Thomas Bordenkircher, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission
Karen Peterson Solinski, Executive Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission