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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Specialized Accreditor

FROM: Michael Paul Waide, Ed.D.
Provost and VP for Academics
Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)

SUBJECT: Institutional Accreditation

In October 2023, Pierpont received its first full evaluation from the Higher Learning Commission as a stand-alone community college.

Upon completion of the visit, Pierpont reached an important milestone in its transition from a university college to West Virginia's newest stand-alone community and technical college. Following the extensive review of a site team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in October 2023, Pierpont Community and Technical College's accreditation **has been reaffirmed** (meaning Pierpont is still fully accredited) and the institution has received an accreditation status of 'Accredited – On Notice.'

This status affirms the direction of Pierpont's progress and provides valuable insights into areas where Pierpont can further strengthen as an institution. Addressing these areas, Pierpont will ensure it remains in compliance with the Higher Learning Commission's requirements, reinforcing its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

HLC concluded the institution is in compliance with HLC requirements, but is at risk of being out of compliance and needs to address concerns related to the following HLC requirements. The designation of Notice indicates that Pierpont is in compliance with all Higher Learning Commission accreditation standards, and meets Core Components 2.C, 3.C, 4.B, 4.C, 5.A, 5.B, and 5.C with concerns. While on Notice, the institution will be provided no more than two years to fully remedy the components identified for improvement.

Education that Works!

Pierpont Community & Technical College is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Institution

Pierpont remains committed to quality improvement and has taken or is taking significant strides to remedy concerns associated with the designation of Notice. These improvements include:

- Expanding its admissions, recruitment, and advising team
- Developing and implementing a plan for the assessment of general education
- Expanding and developing co-curricular learning activities
- Refining budgeting processes to create a more inclusive budgeting process
- Undertaking a “Zero-Based” budgeting process in AY24-25/FY26
- Developing a Strategic Financial Plan
- Establishing a positive trend line for its composite financial index
- Appointing an Interim Vice President of Student Services, who will lead enrollment, persistence, and retention strategies
- Recruiting a Director of Institutional Effectiveness, who is charged with the management of institutional data toward continuous improvement and institutional accreditation
- Finalizing and publishing a Strategic Alignment Plan that clearly articulates the vision, mission, values, and strategic goals for Pierpont across the four focal areas of People, Partners, Programs, and Performance

Attached to this memorandum is the Notice of Public Disclosure from the Higher Learning Commission. Additional information is located on [Pierpont's webpage](#). The Higher Learning Commission may be contacted by email at info@hlcommission.org or www.hlcommission.org.

Please refer all questions related to the topic of accreditation to Provost Dr. Michael Waide at academicaffairs@pierpont.edu.