



June 8, 2016

Dr. John Bardo
President
Wichita State University
Office of the President
1845 N. Fairmount,
Box 0001
Wichita, KS 67260-0001

Dear President Bardo:

Attached is the Quality Initiative Report (QIR) Review evaluation information. Wichita State University's QIR showed genuine effort and has been accepted by the Commission. The attached reviewer evaluation contains a rationale for this outcome.

Peer reviewers evaluate all the QIRs based on the genuine effort of the institution, the seriousness of the undertaking, the significance of scope and impact of the work, the genuineness of the commitment to the initiative, and adequate resource provision.

If you have questions about the QIR reviewer information, please contact either Kathy Bijak (kbijak@hlcommission.org) or Pat Newton-Curran (pnewton@hlcommission.org).

Higher Learning Commission



Open Pathway

Quality Initiative Report Panel Review and Recommendation Form

The Quality Initiative panel review process confirms or questions the institution's effort in undertaking the Quality Initiative proposal approved by the Commission. As indicated in the explication of the review, the Quality Initiative process encourages institutions to take risks, innovate, take on a tough challenge, or pursue a yet unproven strategy or hypothesis. Thus, failure of an initiative to achieve its goals is acceptable. An institution may learn much from such failure. What is not acceptable is failure of the institution to pursue the initiative with genuine effort. Genuineness of effort, not success of the initiative, constitutes the focus of the Quality Initiative review and serves as its sole point of evaluation.

Name of Institution: Wichita State University

State: Kansas

Institutional ID: 1304

Reviewers (name, title, institution):

Dr. Kathleen Clauson-Bash, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Graceland University

Ms. Chris Cantwell, Chief Academic Officer, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges

Date: June 7, 2016

I. **Quality Initiative Review**

- The institution demonstrated its seriousness of the undertaking.
- The institution demonstrated that the initiative had scope and impact.
- The institution demonstrated a commitment to and engagement in the initiative.
- The institution demonstrated adequate resource provision.

II. **Recommendation**

- The panel confirms genuine effort on the part of the institution.
- The panel cannot confirm genuine effort on the part of the institution.

III. **Rationale (required)**



Wichita State University's Quality Initiative project, Graduation Partnership, was a significant and ambitious project which was extremely well organized. Their report and supporting information on their website indicate that initial success in advancing toward their ambitious

goals of improving first year student persistence and graduation rates has been successful. The report indicates that the QI time period involved establishment of committees, tools, and projects that will continue to enable the institution to work toward its goals.

Adequate resources and staff engagement and commitment to the project:

- ∞ Community-wide engagement in the Quality Initiative is apparent in the description of tasks and accomplishments performed by the 13-member HLC workgroup, Provost, Chief Data Officer, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Seven Deans, Faculty Senate, General Education Committee, Retention Council consisting of 43 faculty and staff across divisions, Offices of Enrollment Management, Planning and Analysis and activity logs of 246 faculty members. The report indicates that the AVPAA, Chief Data Officer, and Senate will continue to support the retention/persistence efforts.
- ∞ In addition to Human Resources, the institution has evaluated, experimented with, and committed to participation in the EAB's Student Success Collaborative, investing \$180,000 during the QI period. The report indicates that the institution intends to continue the investment in EAB's SSC.

Wichita State University has demonstrated a genuine and collaborative effort in this quality initiative project. They have begun to develop a true culture of collaboration and innovation by acknowledging the need to take risks and articulating an approach to evaluating those risks. In the dynamic higher education environment of the 21st Century, this will serve them well in creating and adapting learning environments that will enable them to continue to support student success into the future.