



HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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To whom it may concern:

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an Illinois not for profit corporation that accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the United States. HLC is recognized as an institutional accreditor by the U.S. Department of Education. HLC's mission is to "advance the common good through quality assurance of higher education as the leader in equitable, transformative and trusted accreditation in the service of students and member institutions."

As part of its mission, and grounded in its unique expertise as a historically-regional accreditor, HLC offers elective programming to its member institutions. This elective programming includes what HLC refers to as "academies." Academies are aimed at assisting HLC-accredited institutions define, develop and implement comprehensive strategies for institutional improvement. Designed and led by experienced practitioners, academies provide a framework and guidance for institutions to address leading areas of concern in higher education. The programs are adaptive to the needs of the wide range of institutional types served by HLC and support improvement within the context of an institution's mission, vision and goals.

In particular, the Assessment Academy that HLC offers is tailored for institutions interested in developing an ongoing commitment to assessing and improving student learning. The Academy offers each institution personalized guidance in developing, documenting and implementing a systematic approach to institutional assessment. Institutions participating in the Assessment Academy are presented with new ideas and techniques for influencing institutional culture, increasing capacity to assess student learning and using assessment data to improve student learning.

In order to offer the Assessment Academy, HLC retains a group of practitioners with experience leading assessment and student success efforts at a wide range of institutional types. Among other things, these practitioners guide participating institutions throughout their project-based Academy experience. During the Academy, participants also interact with subject-matter experts who design the curriculum and activities for all of the Academy events, and offer an additional perspective on institutions' activities.

City Colleges of Chicago – Malcolm X College has applied to participate in HLC's Assessment Academy and, upon HLC's review of its application, has been accepted by HLC as a participant.

By its nature, participation in HLC's Academy programming is not adapted to award by competitive bidding because the "service" of providing the Academy requires a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part.

Please let me know if further information is required.

Sincerely,

Destiny Quintero,
Director, Quality Services
Higher Learning Commission