

Minnesota West Community & Technical College began our self-study process seeking reaffirmation of accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in 2012. Accreditation through the HLC demonstrates publicly our College's commitment and willingness to be held accountable through an external, independent and transparent review process.

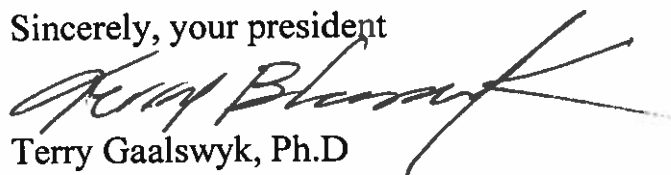
Minnesota West Community & Technical College completed the HLC Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ) process in 2011 and received reaffirmation of accreditation until 2021-2022. During the period of time, the HLC revised accreditation criterion and processes. Our College has transitioned to the Open Pathway.

Minnesota West has demonstrated improvement strategies through the Quality Initiative in years 5-9 of our current accreditation and are in final preparations for the Comprehensive Evaluation including the Assurance Review, Federal Compliance Review, Student Opinion Survey, and the On-site Peer Review scheduled for November 8-9, 2021.

All College functions including students, academics, student-services, outreach, human resources, and business operations are active participants in seeking reaffirmation of accreditation through the HLC. We look forward to demonstrating our College's compliance with the requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Education and the Criteria for Accreditation provided by the Higher Learning Commission.

Minnesota West Community & Technical College is proud of our service to our students, communities, and partners. We are effectively navigating the historical pandemic by focusing our energies around two priorities; 1) assuring the wellness of college community and 2) assuring the academic progression of our students. This commitment closely aligns with the expectations set forth in the HLC Criteria for Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. This process affords an opportunity to celebrate successes and identify ways of better helping those we serve. As president, I am committed to working with each of you as we seek reaffirmation of accreditation and seek ways to improve our College.

Sincerely, your president

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Gaalswyk", written over a horizontal line.

Terry Gaalswyk, Ph.D