



November 17, 2014

Ms. Denise Malcolm
Accreditation Processes Associate
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Malcolm:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of SCTCC's Systems Appraisal Feedback Report. There are several points that SCTCC would like to respond to at this time in reference to the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report.

1. On page 5 of the Reflective Introduction and Executive Summary, 2nd paragraph, it mentions that SCTCC serves 2,230 full-time and 2,521 part-time students. We discovered that those numbers are from the Fall 2012 IPEDS report. However, those numbers reflect only one semester not the entire academic year. As is also reflected in the IPEDS report for 2012-2013, our unduplicated headcount is 6,397 students and for IPEDS 2013-2014, our unduplicated headcount is 6,403 students.
2. In section 5P2, page 47, **HLC Core Component 2.C. The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity**, the comment was made there is no reference to this in the portfolio.

On Page 73 of the Systems portfolio, there is reference to the "balanced coordination between the autonomy of each college president and the structure and guidance provided by the MnSCU Board of Trustees." The following information may provide a broader understanding of the higher education system in Minnesota.

Through State Statute 136F.02, the Board of Trustees for the MnSCU (Minnesota State College and University) System was established. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees appointed by the governor. The Board has policy responsibility for system planning, academic programs, fiscal management, personnel, admissions requirements, tuition and fees, and rules and regulations.

The present chancellor of the system is **Steven J. Rosenstone**, who began his term with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on Aug. 1, 2011. Chancellor Rosenstone is the chief executive officer of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. He is responsible for providing academic leadership to the system's 31 colleges and universities, ensuring effective and efficient management and operation of the system, carrying out board policies, recommending operating and capital budgets to the board, and planning for the current and long-term educational needs of Minnesota.

SCTCC's president is the primary spokesperson for college interests and consults with students, faculty, staff and members of the community. The president advises the chancellor, the staff of the system office, and the Board of Trustees on matters of system policy as appropriate. The college president leads in generating and sustaining the college vision as an integral part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The duties and responsibilities of the president include but are not limited to, adhering to Board policies and system procedures, employing personnel, providing innovative educational leadership, allocating campus resources, and implementing the Board's strategic plan.

3. On Page 27 and Page 28, references are made to the PACE survey and improvements in the areas of institutional structure and communication. SCTCC is a unique college and values the use of the Appreciative Inquiry process to foster positive open discourse. Student, staff, and faculty stories revealed through the Appreciative Inquiry process help support our initiatives and college improvement goals. Also, in tune with SCTCC's value of continuous improvement, an action project is being developed after a cross-function team of faculty, staff, and administration returned from a CQIN event, which focused on Employee Engagement, one of SCTCC's college priorities. From what was learned and experienced, they embarked immediately upon development of an AQIP Action project. Following is a summary of that project:

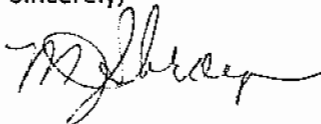
Action Project Goal: Conduct an assessment of the most/best used communication tools, which will benefit organizational processes in the areas of employee retention and engagement,

The motivation for this Action Project is twofold: To address an area identified in our employee engagement/climate survey as needing attention and to update the college communication tools, processes and venues.

The outcome for the project will be: Improve the methods of communication to enhance employee engagement at SCTCC.

In preparation for the upcoming quality checkup visit, SCTCC is continuing our journey of continuous improvement with adherence to our vision: St. Cloud Technical & Community College is the college of choice for quality career, technical and transferable education, focused on highly-skilled employment and life-long learning opportunities.

Sincerely,



Peg Shroyer, Ed.D.

Vice President of Academic Affairs