

From: **Office of the Chancellor, Pima Community College** <chancellor@pima.edu>
Date: Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 8:58 AM
Subject: Higher Learning Commission issues its report on Pima
To: Pima-All <Pima-All@pima.edu>

Colleagues,

We have received the final report from December's comprehensive evaluation visit by the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Team. The report, along with a letter from the HLC's Review Team Leader and a summary dashboard of the team's findings, can be found on the [Accreditation page of pima.edu](#).

We have scheduled an open meeting for 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in C-105 (the Community Board Room) at the District Office. It will be streamed and a recording made available. At the meeting, we will share the recommendations of the Peer Review team and address questions.

Here is a summary of the report's key findings.

HLC findings

The report does not change our HLC accreditation status. Pima remains fully accredited, free of sanction and continues on the HLC's Standard Pathway. The Peer Reviewers recommended that the College continue with the improvements launched over the past five years.

The College "Met" the HLC's standards in 15 of the 21 Core Components for Accreditation. As expected, a half-dozen Core Components in 4 of the 5 criteria were "Met with Concerns" and will require monitoring, allowing the College to continue our improvement plan and focus institutional resources on student success.

By June 1, 2021, Pima must submit two Monitoring Reports to the HLC. One will address concerns identified in Core Component 2.A and 5.A and the 2017 audit from the Arizona Auditor General regarding Financial Reporting, Student Financial Assistance, TRiO, Information Technology, and Purchasing Controls.

The other Monitoring Report will address Core Component 3.B, 4.A, 4.B, and 5.C, assessment of General Education, Course, and Program Learning Outcomes; faculty participation in the Student Learning Outcomes process; and integration of assessment and Program Review results into our budgeting.

These are not insignificant findings; however, I am encouraged by the Peer Review team's recommendation that Pima address the monitoring reports by building "on groundwork already laid." We are on the right track, and our Reviewers recognize the work we already have done.

Additionally, the HLC Review Team complimented the "collegiality, cooperation, and transparency" it found across the College, and also found "the college moving forward with a structure which encourages collaboration and the sharing of best practices across campuses."

These findings are the result of your willingness to collaborate, and your thoughtfulness and plain hard work. Thank you.

What's next

The report will go to the HLC's Institutional Actions Council (IAC) for review and action. The institution will receive an official action letter following the IAC meeting in March.

A culture of continuous improvement

Pima is expanding and enhancing the programs and services we offer to students and the community. At the same time, we are constantly striving to improve existing processes, and thus we welcome the findings, as they help us focus on future activities to further our culture of consistent improvement.

I encourage you to review the report and join Thursday's meeting, if you can. In addition to the meeting, we are exploring other opportunities to discuss the report and our response.

Thank you for your hard work. Together, we will keep moving forward.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor