

Dear Concurrent Enrollment Partner,

The recently clarified faculty qualifications requirements announced by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has caused a flurry of questions and concerns about the implications on concurrent enrollment programs across Minnesota. We are writing to assure you that Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) is committed to sustaining and growing concurrent enrollment programs. We value deeply our partnership with you, our shared students, and our local communities. We want to work collaboratively with you to continue these partnerships as all MnSCU campuses transition to meet the HLC faculty qualifications.

Previous communication from HLC had indicated that postsecondary institutions would be evaluated against the revised faculty qualifications during the institution's next comprehensive evaluation or assurance review after September 1, 2017. As of November 5, 2015, HLC is now allowing institutions with concurrent enrollment programs to apply for extensions if the institution believes its concurrent enrollment program is not able to be in compliance with the faculty qualification requirements by September 2017. Approved extensions will be granted up to September 2022. As a system, MnSCU will be looking into this extension when more information about the application process is available in early 2016.

In the meantime, MnSCU has been developing a state-wide response to support our concurrent enrollment instructors and programs during this transition to the recently adopted HLC faculty qualifications. There is work underway to address the following:

- Establish the scope and areas of credentialing needs for concurrent enrollment instructors.
- Offer opportunities for discipline-specific graduate-level coursework that will be available in formats to meet the needs of working professionals across the state.
- Explore other avenues that would enable concurrent instructors to demonstrate graduate-level expertise in the discipline.
- Identify options for Career Technical Education concurrent enrollment instructors to meet faculty requirements specific to their industry field.
- Develop policies and procedures for identifying when tested experience is applicable to determining faculty qualifications.
- Work collaboratively with Minnesota Department of Education, Governor's office, and state legislature to identify resources needed to support concurrent enrollment instructors and concurrent enrollment programs.

Along with our commitment to supporting concurrent enrollment instructors to meet minimum faculty qualifications, we have also been looking at our campus practices surrounding concurrent enrollment. As our partnerships with high schools have continued to expand over time, concurrent enrollment practices have varied widely across MnSCU institutions due to locally developed partnerships. Implementing more uniform practices will provide an opportunity to better deliver and scale our high-quality programming with our secondary partners. In the next few months, therefore, we will be refining how MnSCU colleges and universities can implement more consistent practices system-wide.

We value our concurrent enrollment partnership with you and we are committed to working collaboratively together during this transition to ease any disruption to current or future plans for concurrent enrollment programming.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

<<Insert name and title here>>