



Dear NWHSU Community,

As you've heard, NWHSU is hosting a site visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our institutional accreditor, March 9-10, 2020. We submitted the [Assurance Argument](#) (which you might have heard referred to as the "self-study" in the past), which showcases evidence of how we meet HLC's expectations for accredited institutions, and posted it for your review. Visit the [HLC Site Visit](#) page to see this and for ongoing updates.

The assurance argument and site visit are just two items that lead into our Comprehensive Evaluation. The site visitors will also review our compliance with federal financial aid requirements as well as student responses to the HLC Student Opinion Survey. All of this will culminate in reaffirmation of NWHSU's accreditation. This reaffirmation is important because it will provide the foundation upon which we will continue to grow, improve, and innovate.

I want to acknowledge the many individuals who have contributed to this work to-date:

**Students:** for selecting NWHSU for your education, for doing the hard work to become healthcare providers ready to practice at the top of your profession, and for contributing so much vibrancy to our programs and campus. We also appreciate your candid feedback on the HLC Student Opinion Survey to help us identify where we're strongly performing as well as identifying areas for improvement.

**Faculty:** for your commitment to students, this university, and your professions. In partnership with students, you are truly creating the next generation of healthcare professionals to deliver and advance healthcare.

**Alumni:** for your client and patient healing, many contributions to your professions and communities, and ongoing NWHSU support.

**Staff:** for your dedication and commitment to our programs, facilities, technologies, and collaboration to deliver on our mission. Without your support of students, faculty, alumni, and patients, the assurance argument would be just words on paper, rather than the reflection of a great university with a strong history and even stronger future.

Pat Casello-Maddox has been steadfastly leading the preparations for this visit since 2016, and she deserves our heartfelt gratitude. Many people also played significant roles in the process to complete the assurance argument, federal compliance review, and preparations for the site visit. Sincere appreciation goes out to the following individuals who worked on review teams and responded to frequent, and sometimes urgent, requests for information and support:

| Criterion 1:<br>Mission | Criterion 2:<br>Integrity: Ethical<br>and Responsible<br>Conduct | Criterion 3:<br>Teaching and<br>Learning: Quality<br>and Resources | Criterion 4:<br>Teaching and<br>Learning:<br>Evaluation and<br>Improvement | Criterion 5:<br>Resources,<br>Planning, and<br>Institutional<br>Effectiveness | Federal<br>Compliance |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Michelle Maiers*        | Mary Gale*                                                       | Dale Healey*                                                       | Pat Casello-Maddox*                                                        | Jakki Edwards*                                                                | Trevor Foshang*       |
| Jakki Edwards           | Don Eggebrecht                                                   | Stacy Boone-Vikinson                                               | Sheryl Cota                                                                | Brendan Bannigan                                                              | Karen Samstad         |
| Trevor Foshang          | Lori Hanegraaf                                                   | Elizabeth Johnson                                                  | Barbara Gosse                                                              | Cory Miller                                                                   | Susan Neppl           |
| Dale Healey             | Kathy Hagens                                                     | Becky Lawyer                                                       | Joan Maze                                                                  | Chad Henriksen                                                                |                       |
| Jordan Knowlton Key     | Krista Jacobson                                                  | Dung Mao                                                           | Tolu Oyelowo                                                               | Elizabeth Johnson                                                             |                       |
| Tolu Oyelowo            | Nancy Johnson                                                    | Jason Thoen                                                        | Chris Petrie                                                               | Timothy Stark                                                                 |                       |
| Chuck Sawyer            | Erin Kahn                                                        | Mary Tuchscherer                                                   | Michele Renee                                                              | Joseph Sweere                                                                 |                       |
| Joseph Sweere           | Rebecca Lieberman                                                | Verena Van Fleet                                                   | Jodell Skaufel                                                             | Mike Tennison                                                                 |                       |
| Mike Tennison           | Susan Neppl                                                      | Anne Mackereth                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                               |                       |

**Board of Trustees Advisor:** David Taylor, Academic Affairs Committee Chair

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\*Team leads

We are working with our site visitors and their team chair, Dr. Kathleen Player, to finalize the agenda for March 9 and 10. As soon as that's complete, we'll be targeting key stakeholder groups to help you prepare and learn what to expect. Until then, please use the [HLC Site Visit](#) page to stay updated on progress, or contact me at <mailto:kpearce@nwhealth.edu> or Pat Casello-Maddox at [pcasellomaddox@nwhealth.edu](mailto:pcasellomaddox@nwhealth.edu).

With Sincere Appreciation,



Kim Pearce

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer