

Dakota College at Bottineau receives continued accreditation

On Dec. 16, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association officially continued the accreditation of Dakota College at Bottineau through 2019-2020 — the maximum duration for which post-secondary institutions can receive continued accreditation.

The HLC is an organization that reviews and accredits colleges and universities in the north central region of the United States. It evaluates the formal educational activities of the institution, as well as its governance structures, financial stability, effectiveness and relationships with internal and external audiences. Accreditation by the commission provides certification that DCB provides educational quality. The process also provides opportunities for self-improvement. Continued accreditation demonstrates to the public that the college has met HLC's clearly stated requirements and criteria.

DCB began preparing for the review three and one-half years ago. Previous to the campus visit by a team of four consultant-evaluators in April of 2009, the college wrote an exhaustive self-study. The self-study is an introspective look at the strengths, challenges, and future direction of the institution. It provided the consultant-evaluators a benchmark from which to base their critical observations. All campus departments, along with students, staff, faculty and community were part of both the creation of the self-study and the face-to-face visitation in April.