



Higher Learning Commission Reaffirms Accreditation

Officials at Belmont Technical College (BTC) announced today that The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has reaffirmed BTC's accreditation through the commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program, marking the college's 31st consecutive year as an HLC-accredited institution.

The reaffirmation process involves a thorough evaluation of the college's entire educational organization in terms of how well BTC is fulfilling its mission and meeting standards for the quality of its programs, administration, and community connections. The formal assessment examines governance and administration, financial stability, admissions policies and procedures, development and delivery of student services, institutional resources, effectiveness of programs, the learning success of students, and relationships with stakeholders or constituencies in the community.

"We are very proud and excited about the fact that we have earned reaffirmation with no major recommendations for improvement," said Becki Kurtz, Ph.D., Vice President of Learning and Student Success at BTC. "This not only confirms our success in opening a gateway to the future, for fulfilling our mission as a comprehensive community college, but also indicates that we are right on target with our future plans as a premiere institution of higher education in the Ohio Valley."

In the fall of 2008, BTC achieved full community college status and began offering two-year Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees that allow Ohio Valley residents to take the first two years of a bachelor's degree at BTC, more conveniently, close to home, and at a significantly lower cost. Since then, the college has embarked on a new strategic plan aimed at providing the advanced programs and strategies that students need to meet their career goals in today's challenging global economy and highly competitive job market. Kurtz says the reaffirmation of accreditation serves to assure students that BTC is well-equipped to assist them in meeting their education goals and to provide the quality of programs and services needed to meet ever-changing needs and demands.

"To have this outside organization - a third party - evaluate our college on so many levels and determine that we are right on track, confirms that we are doing well in fulfilling our mission," Kurtz said. "While regional accreditation may be considered voluntary, in our view it is a necessary part of our commitment to serve our students and our community well, and to provide the best educational opportunities possible so that all citizens have access to a quality education resulting in a better future."

BTC will be re-evaluated for accreditation again in 2016.

#