



April 10, 2017

Dr. Steve Turner
President
Northeastern State University
601 N. Grand
Tahlequah, OK 74464-2399

Dear President Turner:

This letter is accompanied by the Quality Initiative Proposal (QIP) Review form completed by a peer review panel. Northeastern State University's QIP is approved.

Within the QIP Review form, you will find comments from the panel for your consideration as you proceed with your Quality Initiative. The panel reviewed the QIP for four areas:

- Sufficiency of initiative's scope and significance
- Clarity of initiative's purpose
- Evidence of commitment to and capacity for accomplishing the initiative
- Appropriateness of the timeline for the initiative

If you have questions about the panel's review please contact either Kathy Bijak (kbijak@hlcommission.org) or Pat Newton-Curran (pnewton@hlcommission.org). For any questions about your Quality Initiative contact your Commission liaison, Barbara Johnson, at bjohnson@hlcommission.org.

The Higher Learning Commission



Open Pathway Quality Initiative Proposal Review Form

Date of Review: 4/6/2017

Name of Institution: Northeastern State University State: OK

Institutional ID: 1625

Reviewers (names, titles, institutions): Dr. Kelly Tzoumis and Dr. Teri Pigott

Review Categories and Findings

1. Sufficiency of the Initiative's Scope and Significance

- Potential for significant impact on the institution and its academic quality
- Alignment with the institution's mission and vision
- Connection with the institution's planning processes
- Evidence of significance and relevance at this time

Finding:

- The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates acceptable scope and significance.
- The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate acceptable scope and significance.

Rationale and Comments: (Provide two to three statements justifying the finding and recommending minor modifications, if applicable. Provide any comments, such as highlighting strong points, raising minor concerns or cautions, or identifying questions.)

The proposed project titled Sustaining Student Success has potential for significant impact on the institution. It is aligned with the institution's ongoing effort in its strategic plan, assessment plan, and 10 year roadmap for distinction through degree completion. In addition, it is connected to the current work by the university with the HLC Persistence and Completion Academy.

2. Clarity of the Initiative's Purpose

- Clear purposes and goals reflective of the scope and significance of the initiative

- Defined milestones and intended goals
- Clear processes for evaluating progress

Finding:

- The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates clarity of purpose.
- The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate clarity of purpose.

Rationale and Comments:

The university plans to expand its work on retention, remediation rates, and enhancement of curriculum. Specifically, the Quality Initiative includes creating and utilizing "touchpoints" with students to improve student success. The project involves the use of predictive data and analytics to guide the design of academic and co-curricular programs to support student success particularly for their non-traditional or at-risk students. The university has clear goals and objectives for the project with clear benchmarks for measuring effectiveness.

3. Evidence of Commitment to and Capacity for Accomplishing the Initiative

- Commitment of senior leadership
- Commitment and involvement of key people and groups
- Sufficiency of the human, financial, technological, and other resources
- Defined plan for integrating the initiative into the ongoing work of the institution and sustaining its results
- Clear understanding of and capacity to address potential obstacles

Finding:

- The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates evidence of commitment and capacity.
- The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate evidence of commitment and capacity.

Rationale and Comments:

The university has developed a clear involvement of the leadership team with sufficient resources for implementation. The Provost and VP for Student Affairs provide oversight with a team of committee chairs, key staff and administrators to form a Quality Initiative Steering Committee.

4. Appropriateness of the Timeline for the Initiative

- Consistency with intended purposes and goals

- Alignment with the implementation of other institutional priorities
- Reasonable implementation plan for the time period

Finding:

- The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates an appropriate timeline.
- The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate an appropriate timeline.

Rationale and Comments:

The university has a detailed and specific schedule for implementation and evaluation of the proposed activities. It appears reasonably planned and aligned with the priorities of the university.

5. **General Observations and Recommended Modifications:** (Panel members may provide considerations and suggested modifications that the institution should note related to its proposed Quality Initiative.)

6. **Conclusion:**

- Approve the proposed Quality Initiative with or without recommended minor modifications. No further review required.
- Request resubmission of the proposed Quality Initiative

Rationale and Expectations if Requesting Resubmission

Timeline and Process for Resubmission (the Commission staff will add this section if the recommendation is for resubmission)