



February 22, 2012

Dr. Thomas E. Blevins  
Interim President  
Bluefield State College  
219 Rock St.  
Bluefield, WV 24701

Dear Dr. Blevins:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken concerning Bluefield State College by the Higher Learning Commission. At its meeting on February 21, 2012, the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) voted on the items below. This letter serves as the official record of this action, and the date of this letter constitutes the effective date of your new status with the Commission.

**Action.** The IAC voted to continue the accreditation of Bluefield State College with the next comprehensive evaluation to be set in 2021-2022. No further Commission follow-up is required.

**Action.** The IAC approved the initiation of distance education up to 20% of total degree programs. This approval will allow Bluefield State to offer four of its total degree programs by distance delivery. The institution must return for approval to expand distance education as defined in Commission policy.

If the current Commission action includes changes to your institution's *Statement of Affiliation Status (SAS)* or *Organizational Profile (OP)*, the changes will appear in these documents on the Commission's Web site by March 5, 2012. The *SAS* is a summary of your institution's ongoing relationship with the Commission. The *OP* is generated from data you provided in your most recent Institutional Update. No other institutional information was changed.

If you have questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact John A. Taylor, your staff liaison. Information about notifying the public of this action is found in Chapter 8.3-3 and 8.3-4 of the *Handbook of Accreditation, Third Edition*.

Please be aware of Commission policy on planned or proposed institutional changes that require Commission action before their initiation. You will find the Commission's change policy at [ncahlc.org/information-for-institutions/institutional-change.html](http://ncahlc.org/information-for-institutions/institutional-change.html). If you have questions about how planned institutional changes might affect your relationship with the Commission, please write or call John A. Taylor.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Manning  
President

cc: Evaluation Team Members  
Board Chair