BACKGROUND AND REQUEST
Bluffton University

RECOMMENDATION

Bluffton University meets the Chancellor's standards, and the staff recommend continued institutional authorization through December 31, 2019, to coincide with the institution's next accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Chancellor may, in his judgment, withdraw authorization or require additional review if the institution fails to continue to meet the Chancellor's standards for authorization or is sanctioned by the HLC.

Profile: Bluffton University, founded in 1899 and affiliated with Mennonite Church USA, is located in northwest Ohio. Bluffton University is a liberal arts institution with more than 1100 students. Bluffton University describes its mission as developed to "reflect its Mennonite heritage and faith commitments." The university states its mission as "shaped by the historic peace church tradition and nourished by a desire for excellence in all phases of its programs, Bluffton University seeks to prepare students of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation, for responsible citizenship, for service to all peoples, and ultimately for the purposes of God's universal kingdom."

Accreditation/Authorization: Bluffton University is private, not-for-profit institution accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) until its next reaffirmation review in 2018-2019. Bluffton University maintains a variety of accreditations and affiliations including accreditation for undergraduate and graduate teacher preparation by the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education, accreditation for the undergraduate social work program by the Council on Social Work Education, accreditation for the undergraduate dietetics program by the American Dietetic Association and accredited institutional membership by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Program Offerings: The university offers 40 undergraduate majors and minors, an adult degree-completion program with two majors, and graduate programs in business and education. Bluffton's largest programs by enrollment are education, business and social work.

Institutional Changes: Since the institution's last reauthorization review, the institution has engaged in a strategic planning process and has new institutional leadership. Bluffton College became Bluffton University in 2004 and expanded the institution's programs to include a Master of Arts in Organizational Management, a Master of Business Administration, and several new undergraduate degrees. Dr. James M. Harder was inaugurated October 6, 2006 as the ninth president of the University.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: Bluffton University meets the Chancellor's standards, and the staff recommend continued institutional authorization through December 31, 2019, to coincide with the institution's next accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Chancellor may, in his judgment, withdraw authorization or require additional review if the institution fails to continue to meet the Chancellor's standards for authorization or is sanctioned by the HLC.

End of Comment Period: March 24, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	4/26/10 Date

MK