Third Party Comment

Stakeholders to Notify
- students—prospective, current, and former students/alumni
- financial supporters—taxpayers, parents, general donors, churches, denominations
- the local community—government, civic groups, religious community, neighbors, area businesses, elementary/secondary schools, other postsecondary institutions
- the state or national community—state government, sponsoring corporations
- others—contractual partners, employers of graduates, parties to articulation agreements

Venues for Notification
- Newspapers (Grand Forks Herald, Thief River Falls Times, Northern Watch, EGF Exponent, Crookston Daily Times—all but Exponent have online versions—ads in both), could be box ad, also in classifieds and in City Brief sections
- Featured on Northland website, published several times in Pioneer News, announced on KSRQ
- Featured in alumni/foundation newsletters
- Post card notification to community and program advisory board members
- How to reach prospective students?

Content Requirements
- the purpose and dates of the forthcoming visit
- the institution’s current accreditation status with The Higher Learning Commission;
- an invitation to the public to send comments directly to the Commission that includes the Commission’s address and the date by which comments must be received (no later than one month before the visit and notification that all comments must be in writing and signed)

Timing of Notice
- Should appear 2-4 months in advance of the visit, so starting in December
- Send photocopy of announcements in the publications to HLC (Karen Solinski, Assistant Director for Legal and Governmental Affairs) one month prior to visit, also copies in resource room

Reviewing Comments
HLC will send comments shortly before the visit—be prepared to respond
Northland's Press Release

Northland Community and Technical College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 26-28, 2010, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Northland has been accredited by the Commission since 1976 (as Northland Community College) and since 2000 as Northland Community and Technical College. Its accreditation is at the Associate's degree level and includes degree sites at other locations within the state. The Higher Learning Commission is one of six accrediting agencies in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Institutional accreditation evaluates an entire institution and accredits it as a whole. Other agencies provide accreditation for specific programs. Accreditation is voluntary. The Commission accredits approximately 1100 institutions of higher education in a nineteen-state region. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

For the past two years, Northland Community and Technical College has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's requirements and criteria for accreditation. The evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the college; following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to the Commission's website or by mail, as noted below:

Website: www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

(Please click on "File Third-Party Comments" on the left side of the screen)

By Mail: Public Comment on Northland Community and Technical College

The Higher Learning Commission

30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400

Chicago, IL 60602-2504

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Written, signed comments must be received by March 26, 2010. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Comments will not be treated as confidential.

Note: Individuals with a specific dispute or grievance with an institution should request the separate Policy on Complaints document from the Commission office. The Higher Learning Commission cannot
settle disputes between institutions and individuals. Complaints will not be considered third party comment.

**Northland's Advertisement**

Northland Community and Technical College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 26-28, 2010, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Northland has been accredited by the Commission since 1976 (as Northland Community College) and since 2000 as Northland Community and Technical College. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college through the Commission’s website or by mail, as noted below:

**Website**: www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

(Please click on "File Third-Party Comments" on the left side of the screen)

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Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by March 26, 2010.