



# HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411  
312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440  
Fax: 312.263.7462 | [hlcommission.org](http://hlcommission.org)

July 11, 2017

Dr. Thomas Haas  
President  
Grand Valley State University  
One Campus Drive  
Allendale, MI 49401

Dear President Haas:

Attached is the Quality Initiative Report (QIR) Review evaluation information. Grand Valley State University's QIR showed genuine effort and has been accepted by the Commission. The attached reviewer evaluation contains a rationale for this outcome.

Peer reviewers evaluate all the QIRs based on the genuine effort of the institution, the seriousness of the undertaking, the significance of scope and impact of the work, the genuineness of the commitment to the initiative, and adequate resource provision.

If you have questions about the QIR reviewer information, please contact either Kathy Bijak ([kbijak@hlcommission.org](mailto:kbijak@hlcommission.org)) or Pat Newton-Curran ([pnewton@hlcommission.org](mailto:pnewton@hlcommission.org)).

***Higher Learning Commission***



FORM

## Open Pathway Quality Initiative Report

### *Panel Review and Recommendation Form*

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The Quality Initiative panel review process confirms or questions the institution's effort in undertaking the Quality Initiative proposal approved by the Commission. As indicated in the explication of the review, the Quality Initiative process encourages institutions to take risks, innovate, take on a tough challenge, or pursue a yet unproven strategy or hypothesis. Thus failure of an initiative to achieve its goals is acceptable. An institution may learn much from such failure. What is not acceptable is failure of the institution to pursue the initiative with genuine effort. Genuineness of effort, not success of the initiative, constitutes the focus of the Quality Initiative review and serves as its sole point of evaluation.

Name of Institution: Grand Valley State University

State: Michigan

Institutional ID: 1326

Reviewers (names, titles, institutions):

Dr. Judy Colwell, Retired-VP for Academic Affairs, Northern Oklahoma College

Dr. Elaine Pontillo, Director, Indiana Institute of Technology

Date: 7-10-2017

### **I. Quality Initiative Review**

- ☒ The institution demonstrated its seriousness of the undertaking.
- ☒ The institution demonstrated that the initiative had scope and impact.
- ☒ The institution demonstrated a commitment to and engagement in the initiative.
- ☒ The institution demonstrated adequate resource provision.

### **II. Recommendation**

- ☒ The panel confirms genuine effort on the part of the institution.

☐ The panel cannot confirm genuine effort on the part of the institution.

### **III. Rationale (required)**

The focus of GVSU's Quality Initiative was to launch a rigorous assessment of student learning in its General Education program. With a timeline for the project of 2013-2016, the institution was able to accomplish the three outcomes itemized in its proposal: "development of an adaptive assessment plan, implementation of a systematic approach for assessing student learning outcomes using a course-based assessment process in which one-third of the GE courses are assessed annually, and development of a structure and delivery mechanism in the General Education program resulting in regular evaluation to ensure continuous engagement in quality improvement focused on student learning." The institution's QI Report clearly mapped progress of each of the nine goals for the QI demonstrating not only the institutions' engagement in and commitment to the project, but also providing evidence that the scope and impact were appropriate.

In fall 2016, the institution's GE program began the second three-year cycle of assessment, stating that "the GE program will continue to adapt procedures and processes to ensure efficient and effective assessment of student learning." In fall 2017, results of the first three-year cycle will be shared with all stakeholders and feedback will be gathered for improvement of student learning in the GE programs. For purposes of the Quality Initiative process, the project clearly meets and exceeds the criterion of "genuine effort on the part of the institution."