Higher Learning Commission

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April 14, 2026

Ms. Joy Bodin
President
Hennepin Technical College
9000 Brooklyn Blvd.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Dear President Bodin:

A peer reviewer panel has reviewed Hennepin Technical College's recent Quality Initiative Report. The panel's analysis and recommendation are attached; no further review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is required at this time. You are encouraged to review the panel's comments and to contact your HLC staff liaison if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Higher Learning Commission

cc: Mark Johnson, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Linnea Stenson, HLC Staff Liaison

Higher Learning Commission

Form

Open Pathway Open Quality Initiative Report
Panel Review and Recommendation Form

Review Process

The Open Quality Initiative panel review process evaluates the institution's effort in undertaking the Open Quality Initiative Proposal approved by HLC. The Open 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 Open Quality Initiative review and serves as its sole point of evaluation.

Peer reviewers should evaluate the institution's report independently and then meet via phone or video conferencing to share their draft evaluations and complete the panel report and recommendation. The review process should take no more than four weeks from receipt of the Open Quality Initiative Report to submission of the panel's report. See the Quality Initiative procedure for additional details.

Submission Instructions

After ensuring that all parts of the form are complete, upload the report to the panel page in Canopy.

Institution: Hennepin Technical College

City, State: Minneapolis, MN

Date of Review: April 3, 2026

Peer Reviewers (List each reviewer's name, title and affiliation.)

Mr. Andrew Scott, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Dr. Carole Chabries, Independent

Open 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.

Recommendation

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

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

Rationale (required)

Hennepin Technical College (HTC) undertook an ambitious project to integrate previously siloed data into a single integrated system that uses machine learning, real-time automations, and, importantly, a human touch to improve student persistence through timely, relevant, and supportive interventions. Like most ERP-related projects, the project involved many offices across campus; expanded user access; accommodated varying levels of technological fluency among users; and responded to external time pressures related to systems contract timing. HTC has successfully developed a system that meets the institution's need for improved insight into the timing and types of interventions at-risk students need, and has done so with broad support from across Academic Affairs, IT, Enrollment Services, Student Support, and the Office of Institutional Research. HTC does not address, in this report, whether this improved process meets its achieved ends: improving student persistence, likely because the system itself is so new. It is recommended that HTC include a discussion of the impact on at-risk students in future reports on this project. It is also recommended that HTC create a document (if they haven't already) that codifies the workflow for the process, and that this document is kept up to date as the process evolves, to help ensure simpler transfer of work in the case of faculty and staff turnover.

Additionally, as the institution continues to fine-tune this initiative over the coming academic terms, the HLC Peer Reviewers suggest that program leaders evaluate where intervention efforts are most successful. In particular, HTC should assess how moderately at-risk students benefit from interventions (in comparison to severely at-risk students), which could require fewer resources while yielding the most positive results. Of course, it is desired to positively impact all students, but triaging and focusing resources on moderately at-risk students may produce the most net positive impact on the institution and the students it serves. Delineating the outcomes of interventions between sub-groups of at-risk students would certainly be useful knowledge for program leaders.

Hennepin Technical College has demonstrated its seriousness of the undertaking, demonstrated that the initiative had scope and impact, demonstrated a commitment to and an engagement in the initiative, and demonstrated adequate resource provision. Therefore, the Peer Review panel confirms genuine effort on the part of the institution.