



# *The Road to* STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



## **How is WVSU Preparing for Reaffirmation of Accreditation?**

As we move along *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, you may be wondering, what is involved in the Reaffirmation Process?

Beginning in March 2012, West Virginia State University's Planning Team oversaw and coordinated the preparations for reaffirmation. As the University prepares the April 2015 site visit, the campus community must undergo a series of steps in the Reaffirmation Process. These include:

### 1. Self-Study

WVSU began its self-study process in March 2012. The University evaluated its programs and operations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement in relation to the Higher Learning Commission's criteria for reaffirmation of accreditation. The purpose of the process was to evaluate WVSU's ongoing improvement and to provide evidence to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that WVSU meets the criteria for reaffirmation. The process culminated in a written report to the HLC.

### 2. Third-Party Comment Period

In addition to the accreditation webpages, WVSU will publish notifications and basic information about its reaffirmation and invites the public to provide written comments to the HLC. In spring 2015, the HLC will integrate the third-party comment period in its regular accrediting process as part of its ongoing effort to make the accreditation process responsive to a broad range of constituents.

### 3. Peer review and site visit

A visiting team of peer reviewers is to read WVSU's self-study report and conduct a comprehensive site visit. The site visit, scheduled for April 2015, is to include a combination of formal meetings, forums, and informal conversations with faculty, staff, students, administration, and alumni.

Visiting teams:

- are comprised of faculty members and administrators familiar with universities similar to WVSU; and
- will write a report of its findings to submit to the HLC and WVSU.

WVSU is then required to submit to the HLC a formal written response to the visiting team's final report.

### 4. Decision

The HLC's Institutional Actions Council (IAC) reviews the findings and recommendations from the site visit and makes the final decision to affirm or deny WVSU's continuing accreditation. This step in the process may take several months from the time WVSU submits its response to the visiting team's final report.

For more information about The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015, please click [here](#) to discover in-depth information about the process, read the University's Self-Study Report, and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process or the self-study report, please send all inquiries and information to [reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu](mailto:reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu) or call (304) 204-4300.