



August 20, 2025

The Road to Reaffirmation

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Community Members,

We often hear our constituents say, “WVSU is up for accreditation,” or slightly better, “WVSU is up for reaccreditation.” The truth is that West Virginia State University was accredited in 1927 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and has held that accreditation continuously since then. Of all of West Virginia’s higher education institutions, West Virginia State University was the first public institution to be accredited and has the longest record of continuous accreditation.

Periodically (currently in year four and year 10 of a 10-year cycle), HLC conducts comprehensive evaluations of member institutions to confirm that the institution continues to meet the criteria for accreditation. The term for that process is “reaffirmation,” so the correct statement is “WVSU is preparing for reaffirmation of its accreditation in 2025.” As we seek reaffirmation of our accreditation in 2025, your participation is instrumental in this process.

For our students, reaffirmation confirms the quality of education you are receiving at WVSU and speaks volumes to your future employers. For our faculty, reaffirmation provides in-depth evidence as to the rigor of the programs you provide to students as well as that of your own high-quality, on-going scholarly work. Reaffirmation also confirms the outstanding efforts of our staff to deliver the very best for all University stakeholders. For alumni, reaffirmation assures that your WVSU degree continues to hold its value and increases as the University gains new prestige. And for community members, reaffirmation assures you that the University will continue to serve you in new and innovative ways.

The process of reaffirmation began in Fall 2023 with appointments of committee members and a first draft of the Assurance Argument to be delivered to HLC in November 2025. The writing of the Assurance Argument included representatives from all areas of the University and culminates with

a campus visit from the HLC on December 8-9, 2025.

During their visit, HLC reviewers may ask you questions about the University. To prepare for the review and visit, we will bring you regular updates about the reaffirmation process through a new electronic newsletter titled The Road to Reaffirmation. When you receive this newsletter, I encourage you to pause from your busy day to read and become an active participant in the future of our fine institution.

I appreciate your support of and participation in our reaffirmation efforts and invite you to begin by exploring the recently updated accreditation webpage now displayed on the University's Academics webpage.

Being the first, we have a legacy to uphold, but more importantly, we have an even brighter future ahead of us.

Go State!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ericke S. Cage', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M.
President
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