

BARTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Doing Accreditation" Newsletter

Student * Community * Employee

Issue 1 | September 14, 2022



Barton's Vision

Barton Community College will be a leading educational institution, recognized for being innovative and having outstanding people, programs and services.

Barton's Ends

1. Fundamental Skills
2. Work Preparedness
3. Academic Advancement
4. Barton Experience
5. Regional Workforce Needs
6. Barton Services and Regional Locations
7. Strategic Planning
8. Contingency Planning

What is HLC?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is Barton's institutional accreditor, responsible to the U.S. Department of Education that Barton meets expected quality standards in its instruction and operations. While HLC continuously monitors colleges to ensure quality, every ten years a group of HLC peer reviewers will visit the campus as part of the oversight.

Why is this important?

HLC assures students and the U.S Department of Education that Barton meets standards based on five criteria:

1. Mission
2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning

Being in good standing with accreditation standards allows Barton to continue providing federal financial aid to students, and ensures Barton credits transfer to other institutions.

How to Support the Visit:

- Know Barton's Mission, Vision, and ENDS
- Read the weekly newsletters.

- Read Barton's HLC Visit Report, the Assurance Argument when Barton publishes it.
- Prepare for an HLC representative to ask you questions at the visit. Preparation sessions will be scheduled and announced the next few weeks.

General Questions the HLC Team Might Ask:

Have you read Barton's Assurance Argument?

What do you know about accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission?

What distinguishes Barton from peer institutions?

What are Barton's greatest strengths?

What are the biggest challenges facing Barton?

What is it like to work at Barton?

How is morale at Barton?

Is student learning top priority at Barton? Why or why not?

Describe any campus processes that could be improved or made more efficient. What plans are in place to make improvements?

What kind of changes are taking place at Barton? Do you see these as positive or negative?

HLC Visit October 24-25, 2022