Commitment to Peer Review
• The self-study was an honest portrayal of the strengths and challenges of STLCC.
• The mission of advancing quality at STLCC in everything we do is evident.
• STLCC has made impressive progress in 10 of 11 challenges identified in the 1998 visiting accreditation team report.
• There is work to be done regarding assessment of academic student learning and in closing the loop on assessment.

Federal Compliance
STLCC complies with all applicable federal regulations.

Review of Distance Education
• STLCC currently offers 622 online sections and is poised to grow.
• Blackboard is a sound delivery platform and will serve STLCC well as online courses increase.

Criterion 1 – Mission and Integrity
• The mission statement is clear and visible, and is broadly supported.
• Students believe that the college as a whole and individual staff members have had a dramatic impact on bettering their futures.
• STLCC’s board policies and administrative procedures provide a framework to ensure consistency and integrity in budgeting, hiring, administering wages and salaries, addressing grievances, ensuring a safe and productive work opportunity, affirmative action and sexual harassment.

Recommendation: Pattern of evidence demonstrated. No follow-up required.

Criterion 2 – Preparing for the Future
• Institutional Research and Planning reports enhance academic and workforce planning.
• STLCC promotes programs and services to assist its ethnically and culturally diverse students, including a commitment to developmental and English as a Second Language programs that address the needs of the regional and international students.

Criterion 3 – Student Learning and Effective Teaching
• Centers of Teaching and Learning provide significant support to enhance institutional effectiveness.
• In both new construction and strategic renovation, the college provides excellent facilities for effective learning.
• STLCC recruits faculty with excellent credentials and deploys them effectively.
• Faculty use classroom assessment techniques to discover what students are learning and where they struggle in order to improve student learning in specific instructional units.
• There is no clearly understood path of academic leadership for student learning assessment.
• Refocused efforts involved many direct measures of student success and satisfaction but does not involve direct, consistent and longitudinal measures of student learning at course and program levels.

Recommendation: Focus visit on assessment* that will require:
1. Creation of a student learning assessment plan separating student academic achievement from mission-based institutional effectiveness.
2. A description of the collegewide protocol for assessment processes, including timeliness, documentation of districtwide practices, and linkages to strategic planning, budgeting and resource allocation.
3. Description of academic leadership responsibilities for the student learning assessment plan.
*STLCC was given the option of sending a team to the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning in lieu of the follow-up visit. College officials have opted to send a team of representatives to the HLC-sponsored academy, a four-year program focused on student learning, targeted at accelerating and advancing efforts to assess and improve student learning and build institution-wide commitment to assessment of student learning.

**Criterion 4 – Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge**

- Students praised the quality and breadth of the STLCC curriculum, and for the college’s financial and personal investment in students’ success, both in college and in the real world.
- Cornerstone and Capstone courses give students the chance to expand, broaden knowledge and apply general education thinking processes to particular topics.
- STLCC has clear, published administrative governance and academic policies.
- Access offices enable students with disabilities to fully participate in educational experiences.

**Recommendation:** Pattern of evidence demonstrated. No follow-up required.

**Criterion 5 – Engagement and Service**

- STLCC is responsive to community needs through creative workforce development programs, service learning and constituent engagement.
- STLCC staff has a good understanding of both community and district needs.

**Recommendation:** Pattern of evidence demonstrated. No follow-up required.

**Statement of Affiliation Status**

- No change in affiliation status, legal status or degrees awarded.

**Assurance Section**

- STLCC provides quality programs and services and lives every day its mission.
- STLCC is financially sound, and planning efforts will ensure a bright future for students.
- A more consistent and structured faculty-driven model that separates student academic assessment from institutional effectiveness assessment will allow STLCC to more effectively measure student learning.

**Advancement Section**

- Students love STLCC and indeed changes their lives.
- Employees are professional, upbeat and passionate about helping others, and are proud of the role STLCC plays in meeting students’ needs.
- STLCC provides not only impressive educational programs, but also outstanding student services.
- The infrastructure is extraordinary for a district of this size.
- Workforce Development continuing education and the other sites meet the needs of a very important segment of the St. Louis area.

**Concluding Statements**

- STLCC is deserving of its reputation as one of the premier community colleges in the nation.
- STLCC has the unique opportunity to play an increasingly pivotal and unique role in shaping the future of St. Louis.
- STLCC makes a significant difference in the lives of thousands of students by giving them the tools and the hope to achieve their educational dreams.

**Summary of Commission Review**

**Recommendation:** Continued accreditation; next comprehensive visit planned for 2018.