

President's Office



*Association
of American
Colleges and
Universities*

1818 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
202.387.3760
fax: 202.265.9532
www.aacu.org

December 13, 2017

Peggy D. Kennedy
Minnesota State Community and Technical College
1414 College Way
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

I am writing to thank you for fostering a culture of faculty engagement and leadership at Minnesota State Community and Technical College around the assessment of quality student learning. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has been working with a team on your campus during the past three years in piloting the VALUE rubric approach to quality learning. A new metric for identifying and measuring student learning on the Essential Learning Outcomes desired by employers and educators alike for student success in careers, society, and life, the VALUE initiative places the curricular and cocurricular work students do at the heart of learning and validates faculty and other educators on our campuses as experts in evaluating student proficiency.

Colleagues on your campus have been critical in helping to identify, collect, and score student work samples to reveal the quality of student learning in higher education across the country. Although we know a wide range of individuals on your campus have made contributions to these efforts, we especially want to acknowledge the contributions of Lynn Kaiser, Ron Anderson, and Susan Platt in helping AAC&U enrich the nationwide conversation to ensure that the quality of student learning is central to our discussions of student success.

Grounded in our collaborations with the Multi State Collaborative (MSC), the State Higher Education Executives (SHEEO) association project that encompasses 13 states and 70 2- and 4-year campuses to place quality student learning evidence firmly in the state policy decision-making process; the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) and their private, liberal arts colleges; and the Minnesota Collaborative of public and private colleges, AAC&U's 2018 summary report on the first two years' results of the combined VALUE work across these consortia can be found in the attached pdf, *On Solid Ground*.

Your institution's contributions during these first pilot years have facilitated the establishment of AAC&U's VALUE Institute: Learning Outcomes Assessment at its Best to extend access to the VALUE rubric approach to quality learning measurement by campuses and programs across the country and around the world. AAC&U has teamed with Indiana University's Center for Postsecondary Research to launch the VALUE Institute as a nationwide assessment resource that for the first time allows leading direct (VALUE) and indirect (NSSE – the National Survey of Student Engagement survey) measures of student learning to be brought together for a comprehensive picture of student success in higher education.

**Advancing
Liberal Learning**

The leadership provided by your institution cannot be overstated. Without the guidance, feedback, and expertise of your colleagues and others from across the country, the VALUE rubric approach and the VALUE Institute opportunity would not be able to so strongly and unequivocally assert that the quality of student learning can be assessed with high levels of reliability and validity by utilizing the expert judgment of our faculty and the work our educators are already asking students to do through the curriculum and co-curriculum to demonstrate their learning.

If you have any questions or feedback about the VALUE initiative (www.aacu.org/value) or the VALUE Institute (www.valueinstituteassessment.org), please contact Terrel Rhodes (rhodes@aacu.org), AAC&U Vice President and Executive Director of VALUE, or Kate McConnell, Senior Director for Research and Assessment (mcconnell@aacu.org) who are leading and coordinating the program.

Thank you for your on-going dedication to improving student learning for all students.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Pasquerella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Pasquerella
President, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)