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January 16, 2026

Dr. Jack Welch  
President  
Fort Scott Community College  
2108 S. Horton  
Fort Scott, KS 66701

Dear President Welch:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Fort Scott Community College (the institution) by the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) at its meeting on January 13, 2026. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

**Action with Interim Monitoring.** IAC continued and reaffirmed the accreditation of Fort Scott Community College with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2035-36. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

**Interim Report.** An Interim Report due 10/15/2027 on Core Component 2A (Integrity/Ethics), Core Component 4.A (Administrative Structures) and Core Component 4.C (Planning).

Further IAC clarified information from the team report that the institution should document evidence of and demonstrate progress towards in its report:

2.A: The review and implementation of established policies and procedures, including those around Board deliberations, actions, and college involvement, and college hiring practices.

4.A: Establishing administrative structures to support effective, data-informed decision-making, clear documentation, and professional accountability.

4.C.: Planning processes that are comprehensive, strategically aligned, and informed by data. The report should show active committee engagement, transparency in reporting, and integration of assessment outcomes into operational and strategic decision-making.

**Rationale:** The IAC clarified information from the team report so the institution can provide clear evidence in the interim report, aligning institutional policies and procedures with the ethical and responsible conduct of college employees and the Board of Trustees, and, as appropriate to the institution, the improvement of administrative structures that demonstrate effective functioning.

In taking this action, the IAC considered materials from the most recent evaluation and the institutional response (if applicable) to the evaluation findings.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for the institution to review and manage information regarding its accreditation relationship. Chief Executive Officers and Accreditation Liaison Officers may download the ISR Report in Canopy at <https://canopy.hlcommission.org>.

Within the next 30 days, HLC will also publish information about this action on its website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/Student-Resources/recent-actions>.

If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison, Anthea Sweeney. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Gellman-Danley'.

Barbara Gellman-Danley  
President

cc: Larry Guerrero, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Anthea Sweeney, HLC Staff Liaison