

# FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## Wrangler Newsletter

September

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## Higher Learning Commission Site Visit Schedule

September 13 & 14, 2021

FHTC's comprehensive evaluation visit is September 13-14. The site visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) occurs as part of the College's cycle of accreditation. The schedule for the visit is below. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend relevant sessions and students are encouraged to attend the Pizza with the Student Body session on September 13 at 11:30.

HLC team members may be touring campuses and visiting various areas during the visit. Please take time to welcome them to campus and engage in conversation with them.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

#### Morning Sessions

7:30-8:00	Executive Team Meeting (Conference Room C)		
8:00-9:00	Campus Tours Main Campus Area (Tentative)	Campus Tours Downtown Campus, Welding (Tentative)	
9:00-9:30	Meeting with the President (President Daugherty's Office)		
9:30-10:30	Federal Compliance (VP Kirmer's Office)	Online Learning (Conference Room C)	Faculty Credentials (Director of HR Office)
10:30-11:30	Strategic Planning Meeting (Conference Room C)		
11:30-12:30	Pizza with Student Body (Conference Rooms B & C)	Pizza with Faculty (full & part-time) (RTEC)	

FOR STUDENTS!

#### Afternoon Sessions

1:00-2:00	Assessment Committee (RTEC)	1:1 With V.P of Business Services (VP Thompson's Office)
2:00-3:00	Criterion 1 & 2 Open Forum (RTEC)	1:1 With V.P. of Instructional Services (VP Loewen's Office)
3:00-4:00	Criterion 3 & 4 Open Forum (RTEC)	1:1 With V.P. of Student Services (VP Kirmer's Office)
4:00-5:00	Team Meeting Time	
5:00-6:00	Dinner with Board of Trustees (Conference Room B)	

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

#### Morning Sessions

7:30-8:30	Coffee & Doughnuts with External Constituents (Conference Room B & C)	Coffee & Doughnuts with Staff (RTEC)
9:00-10:30	Areas Determined by Day 1	Drop-In Sessions
10:30-11:30	Criterion 5 Open Forum (Conference Room C)	
11:45-12:00	Exit Session (President Daugherty's Office)	



## Students Welcomed Back at Block Party

Emporia welcomed back students at the Block Party on August 23. Area businesses and organizations were present to connect with FHTC and ESU students. FHTC Dental Hygiene students set up a booth to provide information about dental cleanings and exams available at FHTC (FREE for college students and veterans!). President Daugherty and recruiter, Bryan Crouch were also in attendance.



## Engaging with Community

Students engaged with the community at the Student Engagement Fair on September 1. This event allowed students the opportunity to connect with Emporia area non-profit groups for volunteer, civic, empowerment, spiritual and on-campus engagement opportunities.

Congrats to Mathew Grentz, Automotive Technology student, the lucky winner of the Outdoor Party Pack.

To enter the drawing for this prize, students submitted tickets they received by participating in the Engagement Fair and interacting with vendors.



## Gift for Business Scholarships

On August 18, Dr. Ed Bashaw, Dean of Emporia State University School of Business, visited campus to present a \$12,000 check to President Caron Daugherty and VP of Advancement Mike Crouch. The gift was from ESU Advisory member Jim Schwartzburg and will go to scholarships for FHTC Business Technology students that continue their education at ESU in business.

ESU and FHTC's 2+2 agreement, established in 2018, allows FHTC students who complete an associate of applied science degree in Business Technology to transition into ESU's Bachelor of Science program in either Business Administration or Business Education.

## Upcoming Campus Events and Meetings

### September

- 9 HHS Faculty Meeting, 11:30 – 12:30, RTEC
- 13-14 HLC Site Visit (see schedule on page 1)
- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room C
- 14 Institutional Effectiveness Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Conference Room A
- 15 NSG Faculty Meeting, 11:30 a.m.; M108N
- 16 Financial Aid Refund Disbursement for Fall semester
- Constitution Day Activity- Guest Speaker Event, 3-4 p.m., Conference Center
- 17 Constitution Day Activity- Guest Speaker Event, 11:30-12:30 p.m., Conference Center
- 20 President's Council, 3:15 p.m., Conference Room C
- 21 Foundation Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room C
- 22 Student Senate Meeting, 11:30-12:30 p.m.
- Instructional Leaders Meeting, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Steve Loewen's office
- 23 Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Dinner, 6:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms A-B-C
- 24 Last day to drop a 1st quarter class

### October

- 6 Career Consortium, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room C
- Student Senate Meeting, 11:30-12:30 p.m.
- Instructional Services Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Conference Rooms
- 7 Assessment Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
- 11 Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room A
- 12 Institutional Effectiveness Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Conference Room A
- 13 Student Services Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Conference Room A

To see a listing of both campus and community events, visit [fhtc.edu/events](https://fhtc.edu/events)



# HLC Visit Quick Guide for Students

## The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), FHTC's Accreditation Process, and the Comprehensive Evaluation

### What is the Comprehensive Evaluation?

The Comprehensive Evaluation (Site Visit) by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) occurs as part of the College's cycle of accreditation. HLC last visited the FHTC campus in the spring of 2016. Site visit teams are a group of volunteer peer professionals (faculty, staff, administrators, etc.) from other colleges in our regional accrediting system. There are typically five representatives that will be on campus, but COVID may impact their in-person attendance so some elements may be conducted virtually.

**FHTC's evaluation is scheduled on September 13 & 14, 2021**

More information will be provided the week before the scheduled visit.

### What happens during the visit?

Over the past year, faculty and staff of FHTC have been preparing the Assurance Argument which details and provides evidence on how FHTC conducts business and meets the mission of the college. This document is extensive and covers five key areas related to operations: 1) mission; 2) governance, ethics and integrity; 3) support resources for teaching and learning; 4) assessment of teaching and learning; and 5) planning and use of resources. This document is available to anyone who is interested in reading it by emailing dgilligan@fhtc.edu to request a copy.

The site visit team will read the assurance argument before they arrive on campus and this review will guide what areas of the institution they will want to gather more information on. The site team along with FHTC administration will determine a schedule to meet with various stakeholders.

**HLC Visit Team  
Pizza with Students  
Monday, September 13, 2021  
11:30 AM - 12:30 pm in Conference Center**

Please mark this on your schedules. It is important that site team members have a chance to engage with our student population. In addition to this, there will be "open forum" sessions and possibly "drop-in sessions," which all students are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Watch for those meeting times on the Student Events Calendar.

## Preparing for the Site Visit

### Why is accreditation important?

Accreditation is vitally important not only to the college overall but to each student who attends FHTC. The College received initial accreditation by HLC in 2007; this process affirms and continues the accreditation.



### Reaffirming accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) ensures that:

Students have access to Federal Financial Aid funds to attend school at FHTC  
Students can transfer the credits earned at FHTC to other accredited Institutions of Higher Education.  
FHTC programs are validated in their level of rigor and academic expectation for the level of degree awarded.

### How can I prepare for the Site Visit?

There are several ways that you can prepare for the Site Visit:

1. Know that the site visit team will be on campus and mark your calendars for September 13 & 14
2. If you encounter a team member, please be as helpful as possible and provide any assistance needed. The team has a very large amount of work to do in a very short amount of time and we want to be as responsive as possible. If you do not know the answer to a question that may be posed to you, that is okay. It is important to be honest when responding to questions.
3. Plan to attend the "Pizza with Students" meeting on September 13, at 11:30 AM. Consider attending one of the open forums or possible drop-in sessions. The dates and times will be posted prior to the visit.

### Do you know FHTC's mission?

A mission is the guiding statement about the goals, values, and priorities of an institution. FHTC is expected to communicate this statement to all stakeholders. [Do you know what FHTC's mission statement is - or do you know where it is posted for you to read?](#)

### Core Values

The core values are the areas that should guide decision making within the college. Site visit team members may ask you if the college reflects the stated values. These Core Values are bulleted below:

- Quality in all aspects of its operation.
- Diversity of all individuals and mutual respect within the framework of ethical behavior.
- Student success by providing a wide range of support services in a caring climate conducive to student learning and campus safety.
- Innovation accomplished through the vision and creativity of all partners in technical education.
- Hands on education that leads to technical skills attainment.
- Accessibility of education by providing a variety of delivery methods.
- Collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

### Leadership, Planning, & Decision Making

Another key area is related to shared governance of the college. It is important the student body of the college has a voice in the leadership and decision-making process. What are some ways that FHTC includes the student voice? Have you been asked to participate in evaluations, surveys, or in other ways asked for input on campus operations or the future of FHTC?

### Assessment & Learning

Assessment and learning are at the very heart of everything FHTC does to prepare students to be career ready upon graduation. You may be asked how information on student learning outcomes is communicated to you (Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLOs], Program Learning Outcomes [PLOs], or Course Learning Outcomes [CLOs]). This type of information is often found on syllabi, in course catalogs, and on grading elements within classes.

- ISLOs: Do you know what skills FHTC states that all students in every program should have before graduating?
- PLOs: Do you know what skills your instructors state you will have upon graduating with a technical certificate or associates degree?
- CLOs: What about the skills that you should have when you complete your current course work?



## FACT SHEET

Founded in  
**1965**  
as a Vocational-Technical school  
integrated into USD 253  
Emporia School District

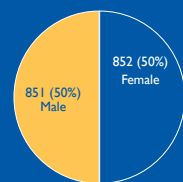
Many programs  
provide options  
for industry  
certifications  
and licensure  
preparation.

**19**  
Programs of Study  
with day, evening, and  
weekend classes

Students can earn a  
Short-Term Certificate,  
a Technical Certificate,  
or an Associate of  
Applied Science Degree

Became degree  
granting school in  
**1995**  
and formally separated from  
USD 253 in  
**2004**

### Student Gender



**1703**  
Student Enrollment  
Headcount;  
**589**  
Full-Time  
Equivalent Enrollment

### Number of employees



**16-65**  
Student Age Range

### Student Ethnicity

