



November 13, 2014

Dr. Elizabeth Sibolski, President  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Dear President Sibolski:

On September 23 and 24, 2014, Dr. Cynthia Zane, Dr. Diane Clark, and Dr. Sean McKittrick visited Thiel to review our progress on institutional and student learning outcomes assessment. The College's response to team's report on that visit is attached.

The visit provided opportunities for a broad cross-section of faculty, staff, and administration to meet with Middle States representatives to discuss assessment and ways that good assessment both measures and guides institutional enhancement. We were pleased to be found in compliance on Standard 7, Institutional Assessment, and will continue on a forward path in this area. The team's finding that we have been out of compliance on Standard 14, Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, resulted in the faculty's setting to work immediately to rephrase SLOs for the new core and to revise implementation plans. I am confident that this work is proceeding appropriately.

Since the MSCHE visit, I have received positive reports on team interactions with committees and individuals. In various ways, the team demonstrated interest not only in fairly evaluating Thiel's record on assessment but also in providing practical advice on how best to improve.

We thank the Commission for its interest in Thiel and look forward to our continued partnership. I shall be happy to supply any additional information or documents that may be of use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy D. VanAken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "V".

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.  
President, Thiel College