

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION REAFFIRMS KEAN UNIVERSITY'S ACCREDITATION KEAN MEETS ALL MSCHE STANDARDS

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education today voted to reaffirm Kean University's accreditation for a ten-year period, recognizing the University meets all fourteen standards that comprise the academic accrediting agency's "Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education."

The decision came during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission and means the university is no longer on probation. The Commission notified Kean University President Dawood Farahi of its decision late today; the Commission said its Statement of Accreditation Status will be posted Friday, November 16, on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education website: http://www.msche.org/institutions_view.asp?idinstitution=220

"This is welcome and wonderful news for our students, their parents and guardians, alumni, benefactors, faculty and staff," said Dr. Farahi. "This has been a long and thorough process. Kean University has emerged from it as a stronger institution, more determined than ever to deliver a world-class education to our students."

The Commission's action comes after a Visiting Team appointed by MSCHE traveled to Kean in September; met with university officials, faculty and staff; reviewed programs and assessment systems; and concluded that Kean University met four commission standards where improvement was needed. The full Commission today essentially agreed with the Visiting Team report. In addition, the Commission requested that Kean submit a monitoring report in March 2014 that demonstrates how the university continues to progress in key areas related to academic and institutional assessment.

Kean Board Chair Ada Morell '97 thanked members of the Commission for their valuable input during the accreditation process. The University, she said, is a better place thanks to the Commission's work because of the robust assessment systems established during the re-accreditation process.

"Everyone who cares about Kean and our students rolled up their sleeves and got to work to ensure this university provides the quality education and opportunity it promises," Chair Morell said. "I want to personally thank the President, Board members and all faculty and staff who committed the time and resources needed to move Kean forward. I have no doubt we will continue along this successful path."

Per the Commission's action report, the University now returns to the standard 10-year assessment cycle. The University will submit its Periodic Review Report by June 1, 2017 and its next Self-Study Evaluation will take place in 2021-2022.

Dr. Farahi said the Commission's decision was the culmination of an extraordinary effort by many faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines and areas of expertise.

"Many people worked long hours to make sure that Kean University demonstrated its compliance with Middle States requirements," he said. "Their dedication to our students was truly inspiring."

Aside from the changes that were the result of the accreditation process, Kean University has made great strides in recent years as it seeks to enhance the learning experience for students. Among the achievements are:

- A 25-percent increase in the four-year graduation rate over the last five years.
- The University produces the most teachers in the state of New Jersey.
- The University recently implemented the state's first undergraduate degree program in Sustainability Studies.
- Kean was chosen as one of the top five most-diverse universities in the nation, as ranked by DiversityInc.
- The University created the innovative New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics.

