

# Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 2018 Assurance Argument

**Presentation to the NIU  
Board of Trustees  
June 14, 2018**

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**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*

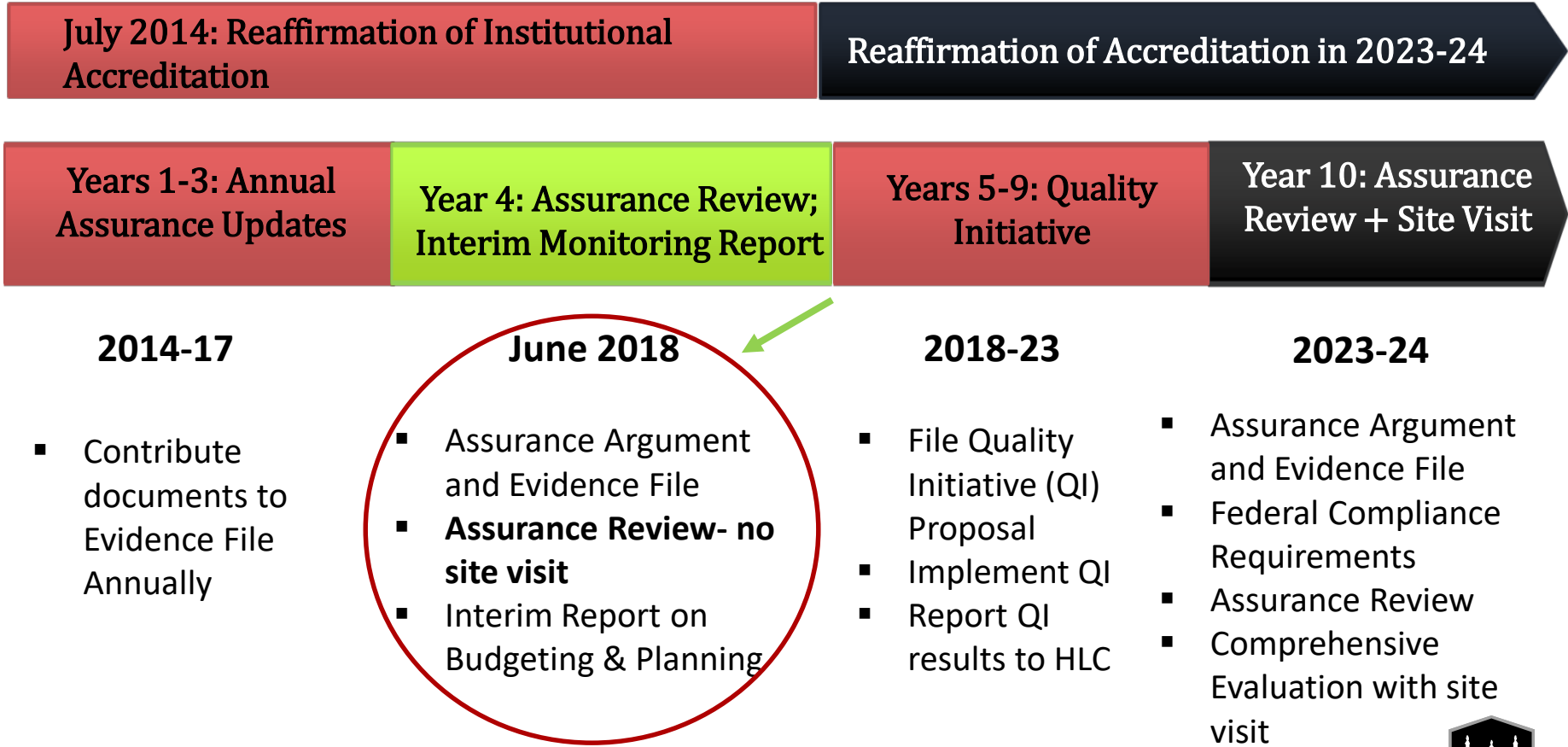


# What is the HLC Assurance Argument?

- NIU is regionally accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Assurance Argument (AA)
  - Demonstrates quality assurance and continuous improvement
  - Demonstrates compliance with federal mandates
  - Enables reaffirmation of HLC accreditation
- Continuous HLC Accreditation Impacts:
  - Federal student financial aid
  - Credit transfer agreements
  - Compliance with IBHE requirements
- NIU's 4 Year AA due to HLC on June 25, 2018

# HLC Open Pathway Timeline

10 Years Cycle



# Five Criteria of the Assurance Argument

I.  
Mission

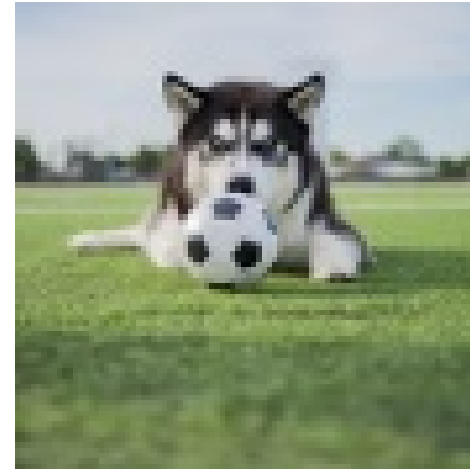
II. Integrity:  
Ethical &  
Responsible  
Conduct

III. Teaching  
& Learning:  
Quality,  
Resources,  
Support

IV. Teaching &  
Learning:  
Evaluation &  
Improvement

V. Resources,  
Planning, &  
Institutional  
Effectiveness

# Assurance Argument Outcomes



- To present an *authentic depiction* of NIU by:
  - Developing a persuasive argument with evidence to address the five main criteria and 21 core components
  - Highlighting our strengths as well as our areas for improvement
  - Addressing the Interim Monitoring Report within Criteria V
  - Communicating our actions that guide our vision, mission, and operations

# Institutional Themes

1. Program Prioritization Process and Outcomes
2. Diversity
3. NIU Plus
4. Engagement
5. Transparency

*Within the Context of the Illinois State Budget*

# Next Steps

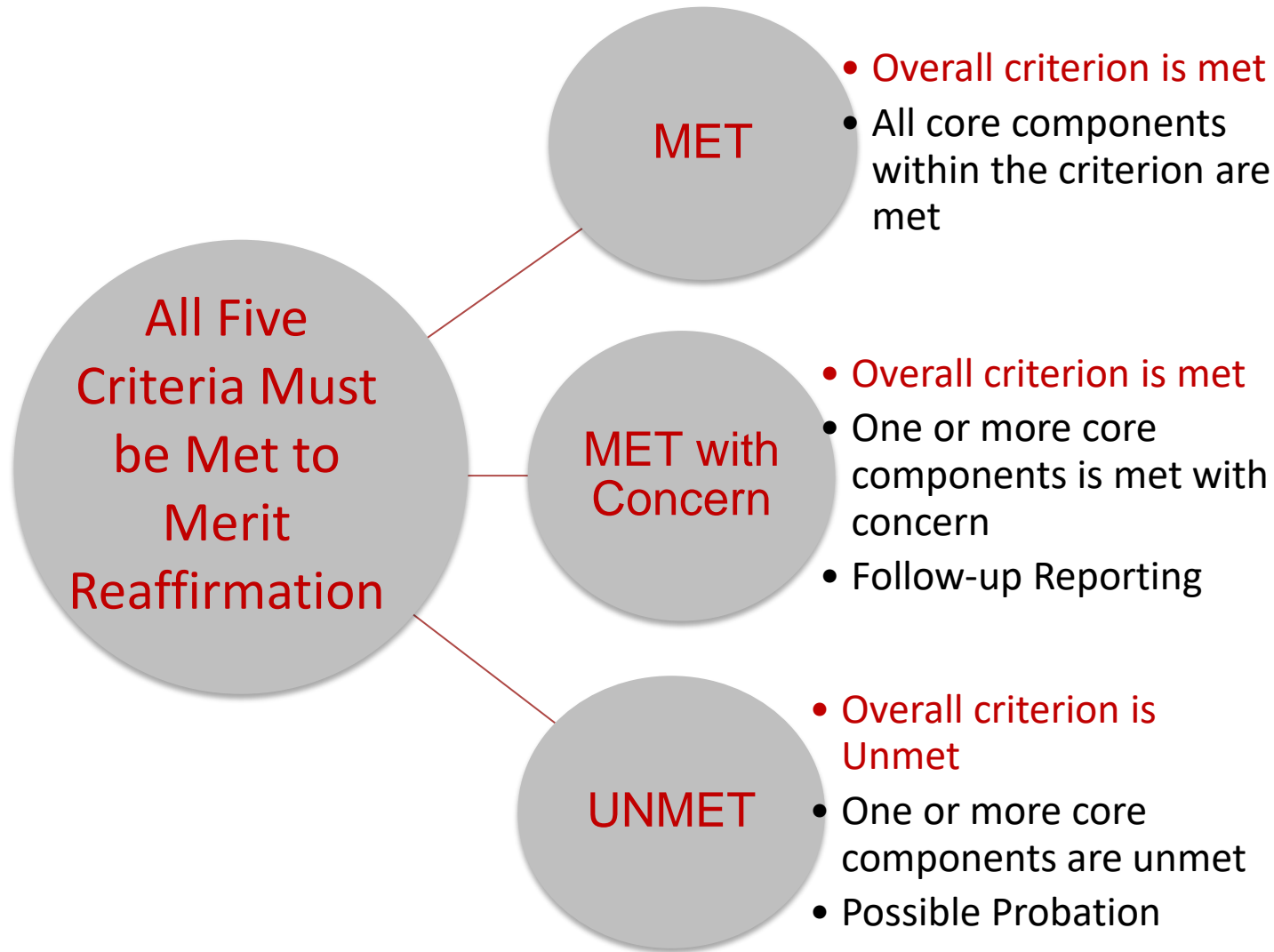
1. NIU finalizes and submits the AA  
(internal due-date June 15, 2018)
  - BOT will receive copies
2. HLC Peer Review Team reviews AA
3. NIU responds to HLC Peer Review Team requests during electronic review  
(June 25-July 23, 2018)

## Next Steps

3. NIU responds to HLC's request for corrections in errors of fact (Early August 2018)
4. HLC notifies NIU of outcome of review (September-November 2018)
  - BOT will be notified of outcome of review
  - NIU must respond to review in writing
5. HLC's Institutional Actions Council reviews and takes action (Fall 2018/Winter 2019)
  - BOT will be notified of final outcome and any follow-up needed



# HLC Review Outcomes



# Thank You and Questions

<https://www.niu.edu/effectiveness/accreditation/higher-learning/index.shtml>

<http://www.hlcommission.org/>