

**REPORT OF THE REACCREDITATION EVALUATION TEAM FOR
PURDUE UNIVERSITY (WEST LAFAYETTE)**

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for the

**Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools**

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Purdue University (West Lafayette)**

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Evaluation Team appointed to review Purdue University (West Lafayette) for Reaccreditation submits its report herewith. The report is the product of an intensive review and extended discussions conducted at Purdue over a two and one-half day period during which time team members met with the President of the University and its Board of Trustees, members of the executive leadership team, deans of all schools, and faculty, students and staff from all walks of academic and academic support unit life across the campus – in all, over 400 individuals in 40 different substantive settings. It is the product of close study of a broad array of materials, including a candid and thoughtful Self-Study, provided members of the team before the visit. It is the product as well of discussions held by the team collectively and in smaller groups during the course of its time on campus. The team had free access to members of the university community, six meetings having been scheduled at the request of members of the team in addition to those originally planned. One of the six meetings was convened with key faculty and academic administrators in the Krannert School of Management to review the organization, curriculum, staffing and funding of the School's Executive Master of Science in Management Program being initiated in Hanover, Germany.

Purdue continues to be one of America's outstanding research universities. It has enjoyed accreditation continually since 1913, the last review having been conducted in 1990. It continues to possess centers of academic excellence, many of which rank among the nation's best. It has enjoyed outstanding and visionary executive leadership over the past two decades that is

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recognized nationally complemented by a proud and supportive Board of Trustees. Purdue is an attractive and inviting campus, with a well maintained physical plant interspersed with park-like areas that contribute to a sense of quietude amidst the energy that characterizes the intellectual life in the buildings they link and adjoin. It contributes impressively to the welfare of the people of Indiana. Those who think, study, and work at the university enjoy doing so there; it is felt to be a good place to be. There is pride in the institution, in the quality of its programs and its faculty, in the attentiveness it extends to its students, and in the quality of life the university community and its environs provide, all this particularly given the relatively low level of state funding the university receives and the comparatively low level of tuition that it charges its students. There is concern, however, a concern shared by the evaluation team, as to how long these qualities can be sustained under the present levels of funding in the intensely competitive national environment that has come to characterize American higher education. The team wishes to further observe that the university leadership has devoted considerable thought and effort to addressing each of the concerns raised by our predecessor team a decade ago. The university has made impressive progress and deserves commendation for the many positive results it has achieved.

Given these general observations and judgements, the evaluation team wishes to note at the outset that it is unanimous in its recommendation that reaccreditation be extended Purdue University without reservation or stipulation, and that NCA approval be extended the Krannert School MBA program.

The remainder of the report is divided into the following sections: 1) an evaluation for

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affiliation wherein we examine the organization and performance of the university, including both the schools and major areas of academic support unit activity, in terms of the five criteria for accreditation; 2) our evaluation and recommendation concerning the Krannert School of Management's newly initiated Masters program in Hanover, Germany; 3) advice and suggestions for improvement; and 4) our formal recommendation and its attendant rationale, including our appreciation of institutional strengths and challenges.