



ACCREDITATION 2016

Message from the Chancellor

The reaccreditation requirements are the vehicles through which our colleges showcase their commitment to, and fulfillment of, the standards of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

The process for reaccreditation is intense and I commend those at the colleges and District office who are working tirelessly to ensure that we not only meet the standards, but exceed them.

At LACCD, our administrators, faculty and staff are crafting robust self-evaluation reports, as we prepare



Chancellor Rodriguez

to host concurrent site visits from peer evaluators representing ACCJC in spring 2016.

I encourage us to use the writing of these reports as an opportunity to improve, and through widespread campus dialogue, create the infrastructure necessary for sustained and continuous quality improvement.

Sincerely,

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Message from the District Academic Senate President



DAS President Don Gauthier

“You can’t cram accreditation”

I overheard this curious statement passing through a crowd of

attendees at last year’s Accreditation Institute. The phrase stuck with me. In part, I think that it resonated strongly with what I had learned about accreditation from the experience of Cuesta College, our sister college up the beautiful central coast. Those of us active in the Academic Senate during those years were witness to the difficult and painful struggles of Cuesta through its decline and eventual resurrection as an accredited college. The turn-around there came about, not from the efforts of ALOs or administrators or faculty alone, but from the efforts

of an entire campus to meet the challenges posed by the accreditation standards. In fact, in a discussion over lunch with some of the Cuesta faculty and their administrators, all were quick to point out that one of the most significant challenges was bringing every constituency on campus into the process and learning to work together.

It has been said that, “Anything that doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Out of their shared experience, Cuesta College folks gained a new appreciation for their role in the success of their community college. Faculty

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Message from District Academic Senate (cont'd. from page 1)

members and administrators, students, classified employees, and community partners learned to trust one another, to work towards a common goal, and above all, to make 'accreditation' something that happens every day on campus. Accreditation, I was told, became "how we do business," not a helter-skelter search for evidence, minutes and data in the year or so leading up to the ACCJC team visit. Involving everyone in the process was the key to their success.

Our upcoming visit as a District with nine colleges (Nine plus One) by the

ACCJC will be challenging in many ways. The logistics of housing and moving the mega-team of visiting evaluators is challenge enough.

Getting the word out to faculty, staff and administrators about how our unique district functions, precariously balanced between decentralized elements and the necessary centralization of many functions, will be tough as well.

Given that we will have a significant new cohort of full-time faculty come the fall without much experience in the district, we have a real job ahead

bringing them up to speed. And, by the way, we have never been accredited in this manner before, so we all have some learning to do, especially about the role of the District and its relations with the colleges.

Are we doing accreditation every day? Is it part of our daily practice to collect data, compile agendas and minutes, gather evidence about our decision-making and governance processes, and document continuous improvement in everything we do?

Our accreditation may depend on it.

LACCD Accreditation Evidence SharePoint Site Launched

The Educational Services Center unveiled its new online Accreditation SharePoint site at the December District Planning and Accreditation Committee (DPAC) meeting. The site is hosted on the **new LACCD intranet server, "Spidev"**.

Faculty member Allison Tom-Miura coordinated the project, which began with uploading 90+ pieces of evidence used in the Seaside college reports. Spring 2016 evidence is currently being uploaded, and is anticipated to house more than 500 documents when the project is done.

Over 80 LACCD users have already received usernames and passwords, and more are being requested.

Luis Rosas, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Harbor College said, "This site gives us an easy, one-stop access point to the District evidence files we

need for our Mid-Term and Self Evaluation Reports."

The site allows users from all nine colleges to have direct access to District Accreditation evidence files.

Bobbi Kimble, Interim Vice Chancellor, stated, "This site allows our colleges and District office to work more efficiently, enabling us to deliver evidence and content for 2016 accreditation reports in real time."

Any approved user on a District computer can view and download the files. In the future, many of these documents will be moved over to a public site.

Meanwhile, evidence gathering and uploading for District-specific standards is almost complete, and writing of District-related sections has commenced.

For questions or user feedback, please contact Dr. Tom-Miura at Tommiauaj@lattc.edu.



Over 80 LACCD Participants Attend Accreditation Workshop



Bob Pacheco leads the January training at the ESC

The Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness (EPIE) division hosted Bob Pacheco, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness at Mira Costa Community College and Assessment Chair for the RP Group at the DPAC meeting on January 23, 2015.

The workshop focused on preparation for Spring 2016 site visits, with an emphasis on responding to the new (June 2014) ACCJC standards. Over 80 faculty and staff attended, including a diverse mix of college presidents, CIOs, faculty accreditation leaders, SLO coordinators, researchers, and classified staff.

Pacheco explained how colleges must meet the requirements of the accreditation standards, along with reviewing compliance checklists and the site team's expectations for the visit.

He emphasized that the purpose of the visit and Self Evaluation Report was for colleges to tell *their* story, share their strengths, “non-strengths”, and how they plan to address deficiencies

and strengthen their student success and institutional effectiveness goals. Pacheco exhorted the colleges to “*Take ownership of this process and report, so it’s meaningful and useful in institutional operations and improvement.*”

Workshop attendees were seated by college and participated in a group project: each was given a section of the ACCJC checklist for evaluating compliance with federal regulations and commission policies.

They were asked to analyze what ACCJC was asking for, then to develop a strategy for gathering evidence and responding. Dan Wanner, Faculty Co-Chair at City College, stated, “*The exercise of doing a close reading and developing a strategy served as a great model to make sure we capture of all the evidence we need to meet the requirements.*”

Mary-Jo Apigo, Dean of Teaching and Learning at West LA College concurred, “*The activity on the student achievement checklist was very helpful in making sure we understood the requirements of the accreditation site visit.*”

Stay tuned as Bob Pacheco will be returning later this spring with additional technical assistance workshops to support the colleges in preparing their Self Evaluation Reports.



Finishing strong in 2016!



Over 80 faculty, staff and administrators attended the training

Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Committee Focuses on Accreditation 2016

The role of Board members is critical to the accreditation process. In response, the Board of Trustees' Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success (IESS) Committee has made preparing for the 2016 site visits their focus for the next year.

In the words of Committee Chair Mike Eng, "*The Committee has taken an 'accreditation-centric' approach to ensure colleges are fully prepared for the 2016 site visits*".

In addition to Chair Eng, the Committee includes Vice Chair Mona Field, Trustee Moreno, and Trustee Veres (alternate).

The Committee has been extremely busy during the past months, visiting a total of five colleges between December 2014 and February 2015 with



IESS Committee Chair Mike Eng, along with Vice-Chair Field and Trustee Moreno, take questions from the audience at Mission College on February 2, 2015

a focus on colleges who are submitting mid-term or follow-up reports in March 2015.

At each location, the Committee held a special two-hour meeting, which was open to all members of the college and public. These in-depth forums allowed the Committee to review college reports, hear college concerns, and offer support and feedback.

On December 9th the Committee travelled from Southwest College in the morning to West in the afternoon.

Two days later, on December 11th, they convened again at Harbor College. At each meeting, representatives of the college community, including the accreditation steering committee. Settings ranged from intimate (conference rooms) to standing-room only (at West).

After the holidays, the Committee was on the move again on February 2nd. Starting at Mission in the morning, they met then enjoyed a delicious lunch courtesy of the college's culinary program. The last stop of the was at Valley college, where the Committee successfully concluded a long and fruitful day.

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