

Reflecting Today Creating Tomorrow

PVCC SELF-STUDY 2005

ISSUE NO. 3

DECEMBER 2004

Message from the President



Dr. Mary Kay Kickels

We have a very exciting challenge before us as we finalize our Self-Study Report in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission's visit, February 28 - March 2, 2004.

Arriving so recently as your new president, I am very pleased to see how much work has been accomplished in preparing our Self-Study Report. I have learned from Rick Vaughn and the HLC subcommittee Chairs that much time,

energy and thoughtful research has gone into our Report thus far. I truly appreciate all of your contributions.

While the desired result of this Self-Study effort is the re-affirmation of our College's accreditation, there is great value in the process itself. It is extremely useful to us in examining how effective we are in meeting the needs of our students. The Self-Study process helps us to reflect on all of the aspects of teaching and learning and to examine what we are doing at our college, how our work is accomplished and most importantly, how it is assessed.

Now, we are approaching the final steps in completing our written report and in preparing the communications for the visit. Please stay with us as we take the next steps in our Self-Study process. In these last four months we will be sharing with you the significant highlights of our Self-Study Report so that you will be prepared for the visit by the Consultant Evaluators and proud of what has been accomplished at PVCC during the past 10 years.

Ways You Can Learn More About PVCC's Self-Study

A number of ways have emerged for spreading the word to our college community about the Self-Study. They include:

- Email "Factoids"
- All Employee Luncheon & Meeting
- Learning Week sessions
- President's Advance
- *PVCC Self-Study 2005* Newsletter
- Town Hall Meetings
- Division/Department Meetings
- *News from the Front*
- Self-Study Website:
www.pvc.maricopa.edu/~selfstudy/



The Criteria for Accreditation

Criterion One
Co-Chairs

Mission and Integrity
Jeanne Franco, Rick Sheets

Criterion Two
Co-Chairs

Preparing for the Future
Judi Anderson, Casey Durandet

Criterion Three
Co-Chairs

Student Learning and Effective Teaching
Jan Downey, Marianne Roccaforte

Criterion Four
Co-Chairs

Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge
David Gerkin, Jane Marks, Sally Rings

Criterion Five
Co-Chairs

Engagement and Service
Sherry Adams, Ken Clarke

Calendar of Events

Countdown to Celebration!

2004

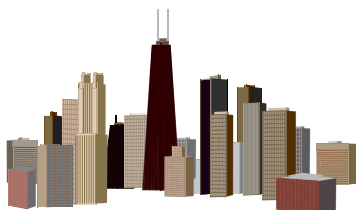
- Dec 10 S-4, Self-Study Subcommittee Summit
- Dec 17 All Employee Luncheon & Meeting

2005

- Jan 10 Week Learning Week
- Jan 24 Week Town Hall (students and community)
- Feb 11 President's Advance (am & pm sessions)
- Feb 28-Mar 2 HLC Accreditation Team Visit

www.pvc.maricopa.edu/~selfstudy/

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 109th Annual Meeting Highlights Chicago - April 2004



This year at the height of March Madness, Rick Vaughn, Bob Bendotti, Paul Marsh and Ken Clarke attended the Higher Learning Commission annual meeting held in Chicago. With our "game faces" on, we attended the conference, with our eyes set on three major objectives. First was the continued pursuit of new and innovative assessment design measuring student learning in and outside of the classroom. Second was a face-to-face meeting with our Higher Learning Commission Staff Liaison, Mary Breslin; and third, obtaining a copy of a completed Self-Study report written to the new criteria.

The first day featured a review of the new criteria. In this session, the team gained greater knowledge on how this new way of assessing our institution will have deeper and longer-lasting effects, while opening up clearer guidelines to continue our own internal ongoing review process.

That evening, they went to Chicago's ARC Gallery to hear Lois Roma-Deeley read from her first book of poetry, *Rules of Hunger*. One unique thing about the experience was viewing original art that three artists had created in response to her Lois's poems. It was an exciting dialogue.

The next morning Paul, Rick, Bob and Ken continuously crossed paths as they attended sessions on assessment and what to expect when the visiting team of consultant/evaluators arrives at PVCC. There was even a session on how to set up a resource room.

The third day was highlighted by a session that addressed the nuts and bolts of what to include in a Self-Study report. Unfortunately, the Team was unable to see any sample reports written to the new criteria.

In the meeting with the HLC liaison, Mary reinforced PVCC's Self-Study process using the new criteria, and reinforced that the report should include examples of evidence substantiating that PVCC is doing what it says it is doing.

-Ken Clarke

Thanks, Donna Mosher, for this quote.

"Everything that happens to you is your teacher. The secret is to sit at the feet of your own life and be taught by it."

-- Polly Behrends

Higher Learning Commission Team Expected on February 28

A team of nine HLC Consultant-Evaluators (administrators and faculty from colleges and universities across the U.S.) will arrive at PVCC on February 28. The team members include:

Dr. Rosalie J. Hine, Team Chair
Dean of Academic Affairs
Ivy Tech State College
Indianapolis, IN

Dr. Phyllis J. Abt
Dean, Instructional Services
Front Range CC
Fort Collins, CO

Dr. Margaret M. Cleek
Provost and Vice Chancellor
University of Wisconsin Colleges
Madison, WI

Dr. Gerald W. Baird
Executive Vice President for
Administrative Services
Johnson County CC
Overland Park, KS

Dr. Daniel DeMarte
Deputy Provost,
Curriculum & Instruction
Macomb CC
Warren, MI

Dr. Trudy H. Bers, Sr. Director,
Research, Curriculum & Planning
Oakton CC
Des Plaines, IL

Mr. James Craig Ratliff
Director of Libraries
Kalamazoo Valley CC
Kalamazoo, MI

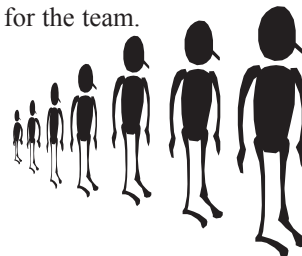
Dr. Phillip D. Birdine
Vice President for Student Services
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma City, OK

Ms. Patricia M. Smith
English Instructor
Metropolitan CC
Omaha, NE

The Higher Learning Commission, part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), accredits organizations of higher learning. According to the HLC mission, their work serves the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.

The recently completed Self-Study report represents PVCC's formal application for continued accreditation. Following the three-day visit to PVCC, the Consultant-Evaluator Team then summarizes its findings in a written Team Report that assesses whether PVCC satisfies the General Institution Requirements and the five Criteria, offers advice and suggestions for improvement, and concludes with a formal recommendation for accreditation action. The Self-Study and the accreditation visit will inform PVCC plans for the future.

Preparations are being made for the team to reside at the Orange Tree Resort while they are here. While on campus, the HLC Team will work out of KSC 212, which will be converted into the "HLC Resource Room" at the end of the fall semester. Plans are underway to create a comfortable yet very functional environment for the team.



From the Chair

It's hard to believe, but the team of Consultant/Evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission will be here in just a few months -- February 28 - March 2, 2005. Accreditation is extremely important as it enables the College to offer federal financial aid and makes our credits transferable to most four-year institutions. Without accreditation, PVCC would cease to exist as we know it today.

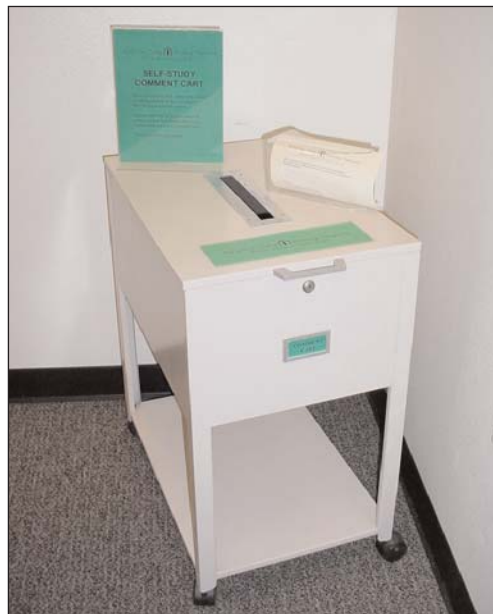


When we began this process more than two years ago, we dedicated ourselves to engaging the entire campus so that "we will all celebrate in, and learn from, the results." Now that the report phase is finished, we are ready to learn about and follow up on the results and recommendations. Between now and February, there will be many opportunities to learn about the report, the future of our college, and the logistics of the site visit through email announcements, all-employee meetings, and several other communication channels. Please take every opportunity to reflect on the Self-Study findings and prepare for this important event.



-Dr. Rick Vaughn, Chair
Steering Committee

Self-Study Comment Cart



Here's a great way to provide input on the Self-Study or to submit a question. Look for the mobile Self-Study Comment Cart throughout KSC Building. Just complete the card and drop in the Comment Cart for response by the Self-Study Steering Committee.

Your feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Student Excerpts from the Self-Study Report

1. "This learning community was a great way to learn with two teachers who offer different perspectives but share one goal - our learning." (Criterion Three)
2. "After I left the concert, I felt far more cultured than when I had walked in. It opened my mind to a whole new kind of music that I was not even aware existed. I was also very impressed and inspired by the great sense of love and devotion the performers showed towards their instruments, the crowd, and each other. It was a very breathtaking performance that will not soon be forgotten." (Criterion Three)
3. Students in the Oikos Environment Club have been working to promote legislation for a health tracking system that will quickly identify and track chronic diseases in our communities, to see if the diseases are rooted in some environmental factor such as contaminated ground water. (Criterion Four)
4. Students in the Science Symposium have recently written and presented research papers on important topics such as "The Synthesis of Tamoxifen and its Effect on Breast Cancer", "Seizure Medications Used to Treat Mood Disorders", and "HIV-1 Protease and its Inhibitors". (Criterion Four)
6. Students contributed more than 21,000 direct contact hours last year through PVCC's Service-Learning Program. (Criterion Five)
7. "The Emerging Leaders program helped me become more self-aware and self-confident than any other experience I have ever had." (Criterion Five)
8. "The choices@pvc works for me due to the fact that I need to travel a lot for my job. I have trouble attending traditional format classes because I don't know when I'll be gone." (Criterion Five)
9. "I would only be able to take one class a semester if distance-learning classes were not available. Thank you for having these classes available!" (Criterion Five)



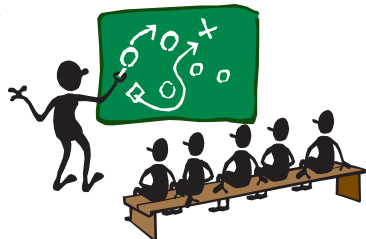
Thanks, Paul Dale, for submitting this quote....

"...A [college] teaches one to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophisticated, and to discard what is irrelevant. It prepares one to fill any post with credit, and to master any subject with facility."

--John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890),
from *The Idea of a University* (1852)

PVCC Co-Chairs Will Present at HLC Annual Meeting

PVCC has submitted a proposal to conduct a workshop at the Higher Learning Commission 110th Annual Meeting, to be held in Chicago on April 8-12, 2005. The co-presenters will be faculty members Marianne Roccaforte, Sherry Adams, and Jan Downey, who also have served as co-chairs of criterion teams for the current PVCC study.



Titled "Incorporating the HLC Self-Study into Your Campus Culture," the session is intended for representatives of colleges or universities at the beginning of an HLC Self-Study process. Introducing ten principles for "Negotiating the Ten-Tions of the Self-Study Process" (Invitation, Tradition, Participation, etc.), the team will tell the "story" of PVCC's recent experience. They will highlight techniques for accomplishing the goals of the study while working within a college's distinctive organizational culture and building excitement and involvement across the campus.



Marianne, Jan, and Sherry Sherry planning the "tions".

Just for fun we asked the Self-Study Co-chairs....

"Name ONE thing that helped you complete your part of the report."



"A peanut-butter Clif {power} bar kept me confined to my office for six hours at a stretch!"

-Marianne Roccaforte

"247 emails between me and Sherry Sherry (who was in Michigan this summer)."

-Ken Clarke

"Stayed home and worked in my PJ's all day!"

-Judi Anderson

"The promise that when it was time to do the next Self-Study, I would be retired."

-Jeanne Franco

"One word: Chocolate."

-Sally Rings

"The fact that I got by on little sleep and was able to write in the wee hours of the morning."

-Casey Durand

"It gave me a chance to remember first hand what my dissertation was like-drowning in data and documents while writing, revising, revising, revising..."

-Rick Sheets

"The thing that helped me get the Self-Study report done was the strange brew cooked up in Jane Marks' office. She told me it was some kind of exotic coffee, but I'm not really sure what it was!"

-David Gerkin

"Lots of chocolate, and bad dreams about appearing in my PJ's in front of the HLC evaluators with nothing to say!"

-Jan Downey



"Prozac!"

-Sherry Sherry Adams

PVCC SELF-STUDY 2005 PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Website / Comments

www.pvc.maricopa.edu/~selfstudy

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