

Reflecting Today



Creating Tomorrow

PVCC SELF STUDY 2005

ISSUE NO. I

APRIL 2003



Paradise Valley Community College is scheduled for a Higher Learning Commission (formerly NCA) comprehensive evaluation in the 2004-2005 academic year. I encourage everyone at PVCC to become involved in the Self-Study.

Accreditation is an important event for us. Maintaining accreditation means that we can continue to offer academic degrees and that a degree from our institution has credibility. It also provides an opportunity for us, as an institution, to step back and evaluate ourselves. The self-study process allows us to assess how we are doing, showcase our strengths and identify our challenges as we move into the future.

As you can tell from this newsletter, the Self-Study Committee is active and well organized. The committee has a well thought out plan, an established budget, and a timeline.

The next step is to involve all of you in the process. The success of our accreditation is dependent on the involvement of faculty and staff in the process. It provides all of us another opportunity to better understand where we are going and to become more knowledgeable stakeholders in the future of PVCC.

*-Dr. Gina Kranitz
President*



As chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the first of several informational newsletters. In these bulletins, we will inform you of important events, issues, and deadlines related to our self-study process. In this first edition, we give some background information about the history and purpose of a self-study.

Paradise Valley Community College opened its doors in 1987, originally accredited under its parent institution, Scottsdale Community College. Following a comprehensive self-study and evaluation in 1989-1990, PVCC was granted independent accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Five years later, PVCC conducted another self-study under the direction of Chris Ferguson and Fred Stahl. This scheduled evaluation was completed in February of 1995 and resulted in approval for a full ten-year accreditation. In February 2005, we are scheduled for our next comprehensive review.

In 2001, the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges reorganized itself. The division that monitors post-secondary, degree-granting institutions is now called the Higher Learning Commission, a Commission of the North Central Association. In addition to reorganization, the commission has also restructured the criteria and process by which institutions are evaluated. PVCC will have the unique challenge of being one of the first colleges in the country to be examined using these new criteria. Fortunately, the new criteria fit very well with our Learning-Centered philosophy.

Although required for continued accreditation, an institutional self-study is really an ideal opportunity for organizational learning. The Steering Committee has therefore chosen a theme to remind us all of the true internal purpose for this process: "Reflecting Today. Creating Tomorrow."



This PVCC self-study will provide direction for the future of the college and its student and employee communities. The Steering Committee is committed to conducting an authentic study that accurately reflects our strengths and challenges. We are working to ensure that the results will be sustained long after the team visit. The entire campus will be engaged in this process, and we will all celebrate in and learn from the results.

*-Dr. Rick Vaughn, Chair
Steering Committee*

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION AND CO-CHAIRS

CRITERION ONE
MISSION AND INTEGRITY
Jeanne Franco • Rick Sheets

CRITERION TWO
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE
Judi Anderson • Casey Durandet

CRITERION THREE
STUDENT LEARNING AND EFFECTIVE TEACHING
Jan Downey • Marianne Roccaforte

CRITERION FOUR
ACQUISITION, DISCOVERY,
AND APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE
David Gerkin • Sally Rings

CRITERION FIVE
ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE
Sherry Adams • Ken Clarke



Self Study Q & A

WHAT?

What is the PVCC 2005 Higher Learning Commission Self-Study? A 2-year comprehensive, systematic assessment by the college to prepare for renewal of our accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

What is the HLC? A part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The HLC accredits organizations of higher learning.

What is the NCA? One of 6 regional institutional accrediting associations in the United States. Through its Commissions it accredits, and thereby grants membership to, educational institutions in the 19-state North Central region.

What is the final product? PVCC will complete an extensive report and submit it to the HLC upon its final accreditation visit to the campus.

WHO?

Who directs the study? We do: Employees throughout the PVCC campus community. The study will be led by a Steering Committee, chaired by Rick Vaughn, and divided into 5 teams. Each team has 2 co-chairs, one administrative liaison, and any number of team members.

Who will be affected by this study? We all will: Current and future PVCC students, employees, and residents in the greater community.

WHEN?

How often does PVCC participate in a Self-Study? At least every 10 years. In 1990 Paradise Valley Community College Center attained 5-year accreditation from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the NCA. In 1995 Paradise Valley Community College received the maximum 10-year NCA accreditation.

What are the dates of the current study? The PVCC Self-Study Steering Committee launched its efforts in January 2003, and a final accreditation visit by the HLC is scheduled for February 2005.

WHY?

Why do we participate in a Self-Study? The Self-Study is for us. PVCC is committed to organizational learning in order that we may maintain high standards of excellence. The results of our organizational self-assessment will drive our future planning, and the effects will be sustained for many years to come.

HOW?

How will our college implement the 2005 Self-Study? The study has been divided into 5 assessment criteria (which provides a structure for the 5-team Steering Committee). The Criterion Teams will utilize study guides and a variety of assessment measures to engage the campus.

How will this Self-Study affect me? The actions that PVCC takes following the Self-Study will affect all dimensions of our college, including budget decisions, curriculum offerings, student-services procedures, academic assessment, and more. You can leave your imprint on this college for years to come, by getting involved today!

WHERE?

Where can I track the progress of the PVCC Self-Study? At any time you may log onto the Blackboard site dedicated to this study, in order to track progress, post your ideas, or engage in a blackboard discussion.

Log onto www.pvc.maricopa.edu/~selfstudy, select Blackboard, and follow instructions.

-Marianne Roccaforte

“...those who become lifelong learners practice what’s called “reflection in action,” the ability to reflect on one’s thinking while acting.”

-Peter M. Senge

President’s Advance

The President’s Advance is a great opportunity to learn more about the college’s self study. Your participation on April 4 enrich the initial dialogue about our self study.

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www.pvc.maricopa.edu/~selfstudy

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