

The Accreditation Review



Mission: Accreditation
Destination: 2022
Path to Possible

WELCOME!

We are excited to share with you The Accreditation Review! A monthly newsletter that will provide accreditation updates, share important information about the process, and provide a connecting point for all College employees as we move through the HLC Comprehensive Evaluation, or as we like to call it "Mission - Accreditation". Be on the lookout for a new newsletter each month!

Criterion Corner

A key element of the Comprehensive Evaluation focuses on a set of standards that HLC uses to determine an institution's eligibility for accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation. The set of standards include the five Criteria for Accreditation and 18 Core Components. In addition to the Criteria and Core Components, HLC also evaluates institutions on other sets of policies including the Assumed Practices, Federal Compliance Program, and Obligations of Affiliation, among other. In the coming issues, we'll focus on a different Criterion or Core Component. Criterion 1 is all about the institution's mission. HLC looks for evidence of how an institution articulates and uses their mission to guide operations. SCC just completed a year-long strategic planning process that included a revised mission statement. You can find that [here!](#) In the next couple of months, you will have the opportunity to reflect how SCC's mission guides your daily work as part of the Passport Program described below.



Need to Know Nook

This month's "Need to Know Nook" covers Accreditation 101 - what is accreditation and why should SCC be accredited? In the United States, schools and colleges voluntarily seek accreditation from private, nongovernmental associations. Accreditation provides quality assurance to the public, in particular to prospective students, that an organization has been found to meet clearly stated requirements and criteria and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will continue to meet them. The institutional accreditors are private, nongovernmental organizations created for the specific purpose of reviewing higher education institutions and programs for quality. SCC is accredited by the largest institutional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which is one of 19 recognized accrediting organizations. By complying with HLC's standards, SCC communicates to the public that we meet responsible institutional practices outlined by the Department of Education and HLC. SCC also voluntarily seeks accreditation through HLC so that students can gain access to federal funds including student grants and loans.

Accreditation Passport

Coming soon! Here's one of many opportunities to get involved! The Accreditation Passport program is specifically designed to help the College community learn about the accreditation process, assist in gathering evidence, and prepare for the site visit. It's going to be fun, easy, and there are prizes!



Shawna's Shout Outs!

For those who don't know me... my name is Shawna Herwick and I love working at SCC. My work responsibilities span all things accreditation and strategic planning at SCC. This includes serving as SCC's Accreditation Liaison Officer; the College's designated contact person for the Higher Learning Commission. I work with every area of the College to ensure SCC is fully in alignment with HLC's guidance on responsible educational practices. If you have any questions about HLC's policies please ask me and we will work together to get your questions answered.

Every month Shawna's Shout Outs will include recognition of an individual or team of employees who have gone above and beyond! This month I'd like to recognize Glenn Pasho. Glenn has been an anchor of the Accreditation Steering Team for more than a decade. He recently stepped off of the Steering Team, and the impact he made during his tenure will be felt for years to come.

During the last comprehensive evaluation in 2012-2013, Glenn served alongside Carolee Ritter and Diane Rink as one of three steering team tri-chairs. Glenn's positive leadership helped achieve the enormous task of coordinating this big process, on top of serving as a Program Director/Instructor in the HVAC program.

In 2016, when I was very new to this role and beginning preparations for the mid-cycle Assurance Review in 2016-2017, Glenn was at every Steering Team meeting with a big binder of resources in hand. He frequently shared his own experiences on various HLC-related topics, in addition to searching for additional resources that helped the team gather evidence and write a strong report. Glenn's sense of humor, reassuring comments, and calm presence is missed, especially while the Team navigates our upcoming accreditation work. Thank you, Glenn, for your dedication to accreditation the last 10+ years!

