

Not Idle Since Accreditation Team Left

More than a month may have passed since the Accreditation Team left Southwestern College, but we have not been standing idly by waiting for the official decision from ACCJC.

In their exit interview, the Accreditation Team gave us some clear signals of what we're doing well and where we need to improve.

Let's celebrate the following areas!

- The ASO and our student body
- Program Review and Distance Education processes and training
- Learning Assistance Services
- Collegiality and service of our Library staff
- Services provided at our HECs and the Crown Cove Aquatic Center
- Management and support of IT department

You'll recall that I sent an email to all staff on the day of the exit interview outlining several areas that may lead to formal recommendations.

They centered around the following areas:

- Outcomes/Assessments
- Evaluations
- Mission Statement
- Hiring of Vacant and New Administrator Positions
- Distance Education Authentication, Accessibility and Substantive Contact
- Policies and Procedures in the 6000 category
- Total Cost of Ownership
- Fiscal Actionable Items

Accreditation Task Force

Armed with these comments, a key group of department heads began reviewing the Self Evaluation Report and notes from site visit interviews to verify evidence and implement changes that address the deficiencies.

They have been working diligently for the last six weeks, and responsibility for follow-up has now transferred to the Accreditation Oversight Committee. Over the next several weeks this weekly Accreditation in Action will outline for the entire college community what steps we are taking to continuously improve Southwestern College.

We're also creating a webpage where we will archive these newsletters and other information to help us remember the hard work we do every day to support our students and each other. ♦

