

# SACSFACTS

## Pasco-Hernando Community College Finalizes Its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): Get eSmart

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges Core Requirement 2.12 requires an institution to develop an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that (1) includes a broad-based institutional process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment, (2) focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution, (3) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP, and (5) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is an integral part of the reaffirmation of accreditation process. As a Core Requirement, the QEP must be found acceptable by the On-Site Review Committee for an institution to retain its SACS accreditation. PHCC began work on its QEP with a broad-based topic selection process that included all faculty and staff in a structured group process at All College Day in October, 2007. "Using Technology to Enhance Instruction and Streamline Student Development Services" emerged from this topic selection process. The topic was endorsed by the Student Government Associations on all campuses and approved by the District Board of Trustees on November 20, 2007.

A QEP Planning Committee, led by Ms. Jane Gumbiner, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was subsequently appointed by Dr. Katherine Johnson. The QEP Planning Committee met numerous times and with many different constituents of the College including faculty, staff, and students. Ideas for QEP titles continued to pepper discussions. With the 2008 release of the movie, *Get Smart*, the title Get eSmart captured the imaginations of committee members. By spring 2009, the QEP Planning Committee had completed a draft for review and comment. This draft was polished and improved by the SACS Reaffirmation Steering Committee and includes the following major goals:

- Goal 1: PHCC student retention and success in online courses will increase.
- Goal 2: PHCC students will increasingly integrate online student services as part of their academic planning process.
- Goal 3: PHCC students will utilize myPHCC for technologically enhanced learning in face-to-face courses.

## **SACS FACTS**

Volume I No. 19

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Page Two

The College's Get eSmart QEP must be submitted to SACS by September 1, 2009. The On-Site Review Committee will visit PHCC on October 13-15, 2009 and a major part of the committee's visit will focused on reviewing the QEP.

The lead evaluator for the On-Site Review Committee is Mr. Michael Abbiatti, the Executive Director of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network. Mr. Abbiatti was formerly the Associate Commissioner of Higher Education in Louisiana where he coordinated e-learning activities for Louisiana's colleges and universities. He has worked extensively with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and been actively engaged in e-learning activities throughout the south.

**Questions About SACS FACTS.....**If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the information contained in **SACS FACTS**, please contact Dr. Burt Harres at extension 3490 or Dr. Randy Stovall at extension 1301.