

SACSFACTS

We Did It!!! SACS On-Site Review Committee Completes Successful Visit to PHCC

Pasco-Hernando Community College Reaches Milestone

“Pasco-Hernando Community College has reached a milestone in its history,” said Dr. Patricia J. Robertson, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Trident Technical College, and chair of the SACS On-Site Review Committee. Dr. Robertson’s remarks preceded the SACS On-Site Review Committee’s preliminary report on its findings related to the College’s Compliance Certification and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The findings were presented to Dr. Katherine Johnson, members of the President’s Cabinet, and the QEP Planning Committee during the On-Site Review Committee’s exit conference on Thursday, October 15, 2009.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in Full Compliance with SACS Core Requirement 2.12

The College’s QEP, “Get eSmart: Using Technology to Enhance Instruction and Streamline Student Development Services” is in “full compliance” with SACS Core Requirement 2.12 according to QEP evaluator, Mr. Michael Abbiatti, Executive Director of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network. Mr. Abbiatti praised the College’s QEP by stating that it “includes a broad-based institutional process identifying key issues emerging from institutional research; focuses on learning outcomes and the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the College’s mission; demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP; includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement.” Dr. Robertson commended Ms. Jane Gumbiner, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Chairperson of the QEP Planning Committee, for her leadership and “analytical mind” that she provided the QEP Planning Committee as it developed this “bold project that will address the needs and desired skills of the College’s students.”

Compliance Certification Receives Three Recommendations from the SACS On-Site Review Committee

Dr. Robertson indicated that the SACS On-Site Review Committee will make three recommendations for improvement of the College’s Compliance Certification. For Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1, which addresses institutional effectiveness, the College will need to provide evidence based on an analysis of the results for educational programs, administrative support services, educational support services, and community/public service. Mr. Steve Spratlin, Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Southern Union State Community College, indicated that the College has an “outstanding institutional effectiveness process” and only needs to provide evidence to support the use of results of its assessments.

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Ms. Robin McCree, Vice President of Instruction at Stanly Community College, provided a recommendation regarding the College's response to Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 which pertains to college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them. Ms. McCree noted that, "the College did an excellent job of identifying its college-level general education competencies and providing evidence of how Associate in Arts Degree graduates attained them." She indicated that the College needs to provide evidence of how Associate in Science Degree and Associate in Applied Science Degree graduates attained general education competencies to "finish closing the loop for all of the College's academic programs."

Ms. McCree gave a recommendation for the College's response to Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1, which requires the College to employ competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. Ms. McCree said that additional documentation and clarification are needed for a few of the College's full-time and adjunct faculty to ensure that the institution is in compliance with this comprehensive standard. She applauded the College for implementing a system of quality assurance for approving full-time and adjunct faculty to each courses for which they are qualified.

Dr. Marcy Stoll Provides the College with Its Next Step Towards the Reaffirmation of Its Accreditation

Dr. Marcy Stoll, Vice President of the Commission on Colleges, indicated that the College will be receiving a draft of the On-Site Review Committee's report in three to five weeks. The College's staff will need to review the draft and make revisions to any factual errors. The College will be asked to prepare a response report which addresses the On-Site Review Committee's three recommendations and submit the response report to Dr. Stoll by mid-March, 2010. Dr. Stoll will make a recommendation to the Commission on Colleges' Committee on Compliance and Reports regarding the status of the College's response report. Final action and determination regarding the College's reaffirmation of accreditation will be made by the Commission's College Delegate Assembly at its June, 2010 meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Katherine Johnson Thanks SACS On-Site Review Committee, Expresses Congratulations, and Calls for a Celebration

Dr. Katherine Johnson thanked the members of the SACS On-Site Review Committee for their review of the College's Compliance Certification, Focused Report and QEP. "Your thorough analysis and excellent feedback will make PHCC a better institution." Dr. Johnson congratulated the College's students, faculty, administration and staff for their hard work in preparing the College's Compliance Certification, Focused Report and QEP. In light of the SACS On-Site Review Committee's positive findings, Dr. Johnson indicated that at this year's All College Day, "We will be celebrating. PHCC is an exemplary institution. I am delighted with the SACS On-Site Review Committee's assessment of our institution. At the end of the day, our College and its students will be better off because of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, administrators, and staff throughout this reaffirmation of accreditation process."

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.