

SELF-STUDY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 • No. 1 • 1/2012



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(from HLC website www.ncahlc.org)

Q. What is accreditation?

A. Accreditation by the Commission and by other nationally recognized agencies provides assurance to the public, in particular to prospective students, that an institution has been found to meet the agency's clearly stated requirements and criteria and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will continue to meet them.

Q. What is the value of accreditation?

A. Accreditation provides both public certification of acceptable institutional quality and an opportunity and incentive for self-improvement in the accredited institution. The Commission reaches the conclusion that a college or university meets the Criteria only after the institution opens itself to outside examination by experienced evaluators familiar with accrediting requirements and with higher education. The process of accreditation provides the accredited institution with an opportunity for critical self-analysis leading to improvement in quality and for consultation and advice from persons from other institutions.

HLC'S EVALUATION PROCESS

(from HLC website www.ncahlc.org)

The Higher Learning Commission is using its PEAQ (Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality) program to evaluate SCC to determine if our college merits continued accredited status. This evaluation process involves five steps:

1. The institution engages in a self-study process for approximately two years and prepares a report of its findings in accordance with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) expectations.
2. The Commission sends an evaluation team of Consultant Evaluators to conduct a comprehensive visit for continued accreditation and to write a report containing the team's recommendations.
3. The documents relating to the comprehensive visit are reviewed by a Reader's Panel or a Review Committee.
4. A decision-making body takes action on the Reader's Panel recommendation.
5. In certain circumstances, the Board of Trustees takes the final action.

SELF-STUDY REPORT UPDATE

SCC's self-study report teams have been diligently researching HLC's five criteria, collecting data, evaluating findings, and submitting written work to our key writer Judy Shonerd. The teams started with criterion #5, followed by criteria #1, #2, #3, and #4. Currently, the teams are finishing their work on #4. Team members who serve as analyzers review Judy's first draft of each criteria chapter. Analyzers serve an important role in critiquing each chapter for any needed changes. Our analyzers are the following: Nikki Isemann, Arts & Sciences; Pam Sedlacek, Administrative Services; Charlotte Pasco, Respiratory Care; Jane Bock, Arts & Sciences; Bob Eddy, Arts & Sciences; Virginia Hess, Associate Degree Nursing; Beth Deinert, Business Administration; Mike Smith, Arts & Sciences; Richard Nielsen, Arts & Sciences. The final report draft will be reviewed internally and potentially by an independent reviewer before submitting it to the team of consultant-evaluators.



CRITERION #1

Mission and Integrity: The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

This first of the five criteria involves mission and integrity and according to the HLC, this criterion is core to every aspect of a college's operation and relates to each of the remaining four criteria. Therefore, don't be surprised if one of our visiting members of the HLC's Evaluation Team asks you, "Do you know your College's mission?" Be prepared and "in the know" — our HLC site visitors are scheduled to be here October 22-24, 2012!

ABOUT OUR COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

ACCORDING TO THE RECENT SCC EMPLOYEE SURVEY, MOST EMPLOYEES SAY THEY "UNDERSTAND" SCC'S MISSION:

I Understand SCC's Mission

Strongly Agree/Always	39.8% (190 respondents)
Agree/Frequently	52.6% (251 respondents)
Don't Know/No Opinion	6.5% (31 respondents)
Disagree/Seldom	.6% (3 respondents)
Strongly Disagree/Never	.2% (1 respondent)
Does Not Apply	.2% (1 respondent)



DO YOU KNOW OUR COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT?

COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

(Adopted Date: 08/17/2010)

Southeast Community College values the opportunity to provide quality applied technology, academic and continuing educational opportunities for the students, businesses and communities of our district. To achieve that purpose, Southeast Community College will:

- Continue to value local governance
- Value and support diversity and promote global education
- Be affordable and accessible
- Develop and maintain partnerships
- Provide responsive delivery systems
- Respond to emerging technology
- Promote continuous improvement
- Promote student learning through the provision of quality instruction, curriculum, and appropriate facilities
- Embrace lifelong learning
- Maximize and utilize resources efficiently
- Be accountable
- Encourage a positive environment
- Promote recruitment and retention
- Be communicative
- Be fiscally responsible

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT?

- On our portal, the Hub: Under Employee Services/ College Handbook, page 15 A-2b
- SCC's Website southeast.edu: Under Discover SCC/About SCC
- SCC's College Catalog: Chapter 10 About SCC page 181 (electronic copy of catalog is available on SCC's website)
- College Mission Brochure (When the brochures were published, brochures were distributed to everyone. If you don't have one and would like one, contact Stu Osterthun.)



MORE ABOUT OUR COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

DO YOU KNOW THE PROCESS OF HOW OUR COLLEGE MISSION IS DEVELOPED?

Dr. Jack Huck was asked how our College mission is developed and gave the following written response.

The foundation for the mission of SCC is directly related to the laws of the state of Nebraska. State statute clearly defines the responsibilities of each sector of higher education (university, state colleges and community colleges) and further provides that each sector must operate within the specified parameters. The relevant section for community colleges reads as follows:

§85-962. Community colleges; legislative intent; instructional and service priorities - It is the intent of the Legislature that the community colleges shall be student-centered, open-access institutions primarily devoted to quality instruction and public service, providing counseling and other student services intended to promote the success of a diverse student population, particularly those who have been traditionally under served in other educational settings. The community colleges, individually and collectively, shall have as their first instructional and service priority applied technology and occupational education and, when necessary, foundations education. The second instructional and service priority of the community colleges shall be transfer education, including general academic transfer programs, or applied technology and occupational programs which may be applicable to the first two years of a bachelor's degree program, and, when necessary, foundations education. The third instructional and service priority of the community colleges shall be public service, particularly adult continuing education for occupations and professions, economic and community development focused on customized occupational assessment and job training programs for businesses and communities, and a vocational and personal development courses. The fourth instructional and service priority of the community colleges shall be applied research.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors of each community college to interpret the statutory obligations and display them in a way that provides an understandable and meaningful mission statement to the citizens of our College district. In our case at SCC, the Board adopted the college mission statement many years ago and reviews it annually to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date. For example, they are currently in the process of updating the mission statement to include the concept of global education. The Board has been on record as supporting the concepts of global education and during this year's long range plan review process asked the Board Planning Team to consider incorporating the concept into our mission statement. You will soon see an updated College Policy A-2b that reflects this update. (Note: Since this interview, policy A-2b has been updated and now includes *promote global education.*)



The mission statement is intended to be a living, accurate, and meaningful description that captures the essence of what we do and strive for at SCC.

I believe we have a unique niche in higher education in the state of Nebraska which is identified in statute, interpreted appropriately by our Board of Governors, and brought to life on a daily basis by the accomplishments of each of you as a valued College team member.

Vision of Learning: Successful Health Science students learn and practice concepts, principles, skills, and attitudes they will use for people who need health care, resulting in an optimal level of health and functioning.

Southeast community college **HEALTH SCIENCES** **DIVISION**

- Associate Degree Nursing**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Dental Assisting**
 - Diploma
- Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Medical Assisting**
 - Diploma
- Medical Laboratory Technology**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Pharmacy Technician**
 - Diploma
- Physical Therapist Assistant**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Polysomnographic Technology**
 - Certificate
- Practical Nursing**
 - Diploma
- Radiologic Technology**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Respiratory Care**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree
- Surgical Technology**
 - Associate of Applied Science Degree

Our mission is to offer state-of-the-art programs in a variety of health fields.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR PROGRAM'S OR DEPARTMENT'S MISSION?

Program and some department mission statements can be found on the Hub under Academics/Programs of Study, SCC's website under Programs of Study, Long Range Plans, and the newer hallway photo displays of programs and departments. Have you stopped to look at the photo displays and read the mission statements?