

Accreditation Spring Update

FOR: The Foothill College Campus Community

FROM: Accreditation Liaison Officer Kurt Hueg, Associate Vice President

Accreditation at its core is a collaborative conversation among all of us—students, faculty, staff, administrators, board of trustees members and community members.

Accreditation Process Update Spring Quarter 2010

The Foothill College accreditation self-study process is well under way, and the members of the college's four standard teams are meeting, gathering evidence and organizing the work ahead. Each team must answer the questions presented to us by the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACHE) through its *Guide to Evaluating Institutions*. We will complete the first draft of the self-study document by January 2011, in preparation for our site visit in October 2011.

More than 50 campus community members who are actively participating in the accreditation process, including students, faculty, staff and administrators gathered April 23 to develop work plans and identify tasks and evidence needed for the self-study. The ACCJC *Guide to Evaluating Institutions* contains a series of study questions and suggested evidence sources that helped to define this ongoing process. This quarter, teams are identifying information resources and completing a series of templates that maximize the organization and presentation of answers to the study questions and sources of evidence.

One of the intended outcomes of this process is to increase the entire campus community's awareness of the *official* Foothill College mission, vision and values, and how each of these concepts guide the decisions we make about the programs Foothill College offers and the students we serve.

Can You Identify the College Missions Statement?

In a thought provoking demonstration of the importance of the campus community's awareness of the college mission, Accreditation Liaison Officer Kurt Hueg began the April 23 meeting by asking each participant to write down the college's mission statement *without* looking at it online or in printed documents. Participants were also asked to share their individual concepts of what the mission statement is. The ensuing discussion revealed some close approximations of the official mission statement as well as some confusion with slogans, mottos and outdated mission statements. Ultimately the exercised resulted in universal agreement that all members of the college community need to develop increased awareness of the official mission statement as well as a better and more holistic understanding of the concepts expressed in the mission statement. Further, it should be simple and straightforward for a student, community member or employee to identify the college's mission statement on its website and throughout the suite of publications produced by the college.



Foothill College Accreditation 2011

Accreditation Spring Update continued...

Take-Away Message for Spring 2010

We learned something important at our April meeting: Our official college mission statement spells out for all audiences who we are and what's important to us. We also recognize that the official mission statement requires more visibility on campus. Foothill College and the accreditation process work best when each member of the college community is aware of and understands the college's mission statement. Our mutual goal is 100-percent awareness of the 90 words that make up the Foothill College mission statement. We encourage every member of the campus community to read the mission statement, reflect on the concepts spelled out in the statement and discuss your thoughts with members of the campus community. Start by bookmarking the online location of the college mission statement at www.foothill.edu/president/mission.php. Next, read the Foothill College mission statement:

A well-educated population being essential to sustaining and enhancing a democratic society, Foothill College commits itself to providing access to outstanding educational opportunities for all of our students. Whether through basic skills, career preparation, lifelong learning, or transfer, the members of the Foothill College community are dedicated to the achievement of learning and to the success of our students. We affirm that our unwavering dedication to this mission is critical to the prosperity of our community, our state, our nation, and the global community to which all people are members.

*-Revised by the Foothill College Roundtable
June 24, 2009*

I invite you to be part of the accreditation conversion and review the Foothill College accreditation website at <http://www.foothill.edu/president/accreditation.php>.

If you would like to participate as a member of one on the four accreditation standards teams, or if I can answer any questions or address concerns you may have about the accreditation process, self-study document or October 2011 site visit, please call me at (650) 949-7645 or e-mail me at HuegKurt@foothill.edu

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