MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHANCELLOR: FUTURE FOCUS—FROM SELF-STUDY TO ACTION

This is a crucial time for SLCC. In just four months the North Central Association—Higher Learning Commission will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of our college. As a former NCA consultant-evaluator, I value the accreditation process.

The self-study report draft has given me a head start in understanding SLCC. Its depth of information and large number of contributors are certainly commendable. Now as the first draft becomes a final report and an executive summary is being prepared for distribution, you have the opportunity to prepare yourself for the team visit, January 28-30, 2008. As an important member of the College family, you have the responsibility to familiarize yourself with what the report says about the work you do and its recommendations for improving teaching and learning at SLCC.

During the next few months you can take an active part in discussions about these recommendations and make a positive difference in the future direction of this fine institution.

SELF-STUDY RESOURCE ROOMS: PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL

With the HLC team visit on the horizon, many College employees now are busy getting the physical and digital resource rooms and the campus/site hospitality rooms ready to welcome the visiting team members in January. The main resource room will be at FV, Room PDR-A, across from the bookstore in the Student Center, and each campus and CC will have a hospitality room.

Cindy Shanks Brueggenjohann, FV campus coordinator, is overseeing the main resource room preparations. Some of the work that currently is being done is computer wiring, carpentry touch-up, painting, flooring, installing window treatments, and other efforts that will ensure that the visiting team members are comfortable and have their needs met. The site coordinators have reserved these hospitality rooms at their locations: CC: 601; FP: F234; M: BA 106; W: 105 K.

Cathye Dierberg, director of instructional resources, has been managing the digital resource room. It has been available to the chapter writing teams for some time now on the College intranet [http://intranet/resourceroom/default.htm] and is still growing with reference materials that are evidence for the claims being made in the self-study report. If anyone has additional evidentiary materials that are not yet on hand in the digital resource room, he/she can send them to Cathye Dierberg at Highland Park.
WHAT I LEARNED FROM WORKING ON THE SELF-STUDY

Darlane Gardetto, Meramec coordinator, received the following note this summer from Pam McElligott, who served on the Criterion Two (Chapter 4) Committee (Preparing for the Future).

“The accreditation process is long and arduous, and certainly a new experience for me, because I was not an employee of SLCC during the application for accreditation in the late ‘90s. In light of the fact that accreditation provides us with a sense of brand identity for our students and educational partners alike, it is one of those activities that none of us should put off as someone else’s responsibility.”

How I benefited from participation:

- Learning what accreditation means to an educational institution
- Becoming familiar with what accreditation means to the evaluators – what experts acknowledge as demonstration of a good educational institution.
- Collaborating with others – campuswide.
- Developing a sense of what others are doing on the various campuses, both accomplishments and ongoing projects.

EMERGING THEMES IN SELF-STUDY

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) encourages colleges to consider four unmistakable themes that are directly related to the goals of any self-study and are in keeping with the commission’s stated mission, vision and core values. These four emerging themes are excellent parameters for using the self-study to make recommendations for future improvements.

1. The future-oriented organization
   - engages in planning.
   - is driven by the mission.
   - understands social and economic change.
   - focuses on the futures of constituents.
   - integrates new technology.

2. The learning-focused organization
   - assesses student learning.
   - supports learning.
   - supports scholarship.
   - creates the capacity for lifelong learning.
   - strengthens organizational learning.

3. The connected organization
   - serves the common good.
   - serves constituents.
   - creates a culture of service.
   - collaborates.
   - engages in healthy internal communication.

4. The distinctive organization
   - has an unambiguous mission.
   - appreciates diversity.
   - is accountable.
   - is self-reflective.
   - is committed to improvement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2005</td>
<td>Coordinator, site coordinators and steering committee appointed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November-December 2005</td>
<td>Planning begins. Names and requested date of visit sent to NCA/HLC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2006</td>
<td>Self-study process is initiated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February-March 2006</td>
<td>Self-study plan is sent to NCA/HLC.</td>
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<td>April 2006</td>
<td>Seven main chapter writing committees are formed and trained.</td>
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<td>May 2006</td>
<td>Dr. Bob Appleson, NCA/HLC liaison, comes to SLCC, meets with Leadership Team and self-study committees.</td>
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<td>April 2006-February 2007</td>
<td>Criterion/section teams research, collect, analyze and interpret data; write draft summaries (Dec. 1); and work with writing project manager to write and compile drafts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28, 2007</td>
<td>All chapter drafts due to self-study writing project manager.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March-June 2007</td>
<td>Writing project manager works with all criterion/section teams and writing coaches to revise chapters/sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2007</td>
<td>Writing project manager completes all first revisions of chapters/sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 2007</td>
<td>Writing project manager submits first complete draft to steering committee for review and comment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30-July 15, 2007</td>
<td>First draft is given to Leadership Team members and campus-level administrators (to be determined by campus presidents) for review and comment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15-September 4, 2007</td>
<td>First draft made available to faculty and staff panels designated by faculty to provide faculty response. Draft also is reviewed by chapter-writing teams.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August-September 2007</td>
<td>Writing project manager, self-study chair, and vice chancellor for education complete revisions based on feedback and comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4, 2007</td>
<td>All feedback is due to writer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September-October 2007</td>
<td>Writer makes final edits, prepares final draft and executive summary of self-study for distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30-October 30, 2007</td>
<td>Final edits completed. Final documents prepared, copied and distributed internally, and posted on accreditation site.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 2007</td>
<td>Copies of self-study report are sent to all HLC team members and HLC. Groundwork for team visit 2008 continues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2007-January 2008</td>
<td>All-College review of self-study results; employees begin preparation as informed respondents for site visit and to engage in discussion of and input into continuous improvement.</td>
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<td>January 28-30, 2008</td>
<td>HLC team visits SLCC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25, 2008</td>
<td>Team chair sends draft report to vice chancellor for education for any corrections of errors of fact.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 26-29, 2008</td>
<td>Vice chancellor for education sends corrections of errors of fact to team chair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31, 2008</td>
<td>Team chair sends full final team report to HLC. HLC sends report to SLCC and all team members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2008</td>
<td>College responds to team report; vice chancellor for education sends formal, written response to HLC with copies to team chair and team members. College identifies choice of review process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>Reviewers or review panel make recommendation to HLC.</td>
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<td>August 2008</td>
<td>HLC board sends action letter to St. Louis Community College, SLCC Board of Trustees and each HLC visiting team member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August-September 2008</td>
<td>NCA/HLC and College begin to implement recommended follow-up.</td>
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Dr. Robert Appleson, Higher Learning Commission liaison to SLCC, visited the new Wildwood campus on August 22 to complete necessary federal government paperwork for the purpose of officially recognizing a new campus of St. Louis Community College.

Wildwood, located at 2645 Generations Drive (near the intersection of Route 109 and Manchester Road, offers courses leading to associate in arts degrees in general transfer studies, business administration, and teaching. It also has a selection of continuing education courses.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis also will offer degree credit courses at the Wildwood campus leading to a bachelor’s degree in business administration, elementary education, or liberal studies.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR HLC VISIT

The following subcommittees of the steering committee currently are meeting to assist the Higher Learning Commission team during its visit to St. Louis Community College in January 2008. The following SLCC employees are serving on four important committees.

**Transportation Committee**
- **Chief Robert Stewart**, Chair (Campus Police–FV)
- **Anne Oestreich** (Campus Police–FV)
- **Dawn Anderson-Mays** (Campus Police–FP)
- **Chief Richard Banahan** (Campus Police–FP & MC)
- **Jerry Schrader** (Campus Police–MC)
- **George Kroder** (Risk Management–CC)
- **Marcie Touchette** (Risk Management–CC)
- **Jane Boyle** (Community Service–CC)

**Hospitality/Welcome Committee**
- **Teresa Huether**, Co chair (CTL–FV)
- **Anne Wessely**, Co chair (Accounting–MC)
- **Ellen Gough** (Bookstore–WW)
- **Paula Savarino** (Bookstore–MC)
- **Kevin Metzler** (Bookstore–MC)
- **Gina Benesh** (Career & Technical Education–CC)
- **Christy Hart** (Bookstore–FP)

**Hospitality Food/Hotel Committee**
- **Robert Hertel**, Chair (Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Management–FP)
- **Casey Shiller** (Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Management–FP)
- **Jeffrey Ivory** (Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Management–FP)

**Resource Room/Hospitality Rooms Committee**
- **Cindy Shanks Brueggenjohann**, RR Chair, Sociology–FV
- **Cathey Dierberg** (District Instructional Resources–HP)
- **Jay Van Reed** (TESS–FV)
- **Jim Cooper** (TESS–FV)
- **Katie Dodwell** (TESS–FP)
- **Ralph Kudrak** (TESS–MC)
- **John Ferlisi** (Buildings & Grounds–FV)
- **Gary Roney** (Utilities/HVAC–CC)
- **Joe Lewis** (Buildings and Grounds–FV)
- **Adria Werner** (President’s Office–FV)
- **Debra Fietsam** (Career & Technical Education–CC)
- **Judy Brouk** (President’s Office–WW)
- **Ena Primous** (Vice-President’s Office–FP)

The Self-Study Steering Committee, with input from College art instructors, has decided on the top three entries for the self-study cover design competition. The competition was open to all current SLCC students.

**Student Prize Winners:**
- **Alexandria Long**, FV
  - First Place and $250 cash from the SLCC Foundation
- **Rachel Hinchcliff**, MC
  - Second Place and $200 college bookstore gift certificate
- **Sara K. Dysert**, MC
  - Third Place and $100 college bookstore gift certificate

Chris Licata, Meramec art instructor, will work with Alexandria Long to finalize the self-study cover design.

Alexandria Long is a May 2007 graduate of the FV Graphic Communications program. Born and raised in St. Louis, she is currently freelancing in Web design while looking for a job in illustration or video game design. She eventually wants to get a bachelor’s degree in Graphic Communications.
USE SELF-STUDY LISTSERV FOR FUTURE FOCUS

The SELFSTUDY08 listserv conversations are continuing. Before anyone can participate in the discussions, he/she must subscribe to the listserv by following a few simple directions.

One excellent use for this listserv is to discuss issues and recommendations after reading the SLCC Self-Study Report. You can share your ideas with your district colleagues now by discussing how changes to your work areas or areas that affect the work you do as a SLCC employee can improve the College overall and, of course, teaching and learning.

If you have any other ideas to discuss in this listserv regarding accreditation or related subjects, you can send them to Jeffrey Jones, the listserv manager, (jdjones@stlcc.edu) or simply put them out on the listserv for all to discuss.

To reply to all the subscribers of the SELFSTUDY08 listserv, use the “reply” function and put in your comments. To get additional information about how to use the listserv to reply, subscribe or unsubscribe, or to see who all are subscribed, visit the Accreditation Web site at http://www.stlcc.edu/accreditation/listserv.html.

SELF-STUDY REVIEWED BY EMPLOYEE PANELS

The first draft of the self-study report was reviewed by faculty and staff panels during July and August and into the first week of September using the College Internet, facilitated by TESS technologies. Reviewers made their summary responses after each chapter and automatically submitted them to the project writing manager, Donna Dare, and the self-study coordinator, Nancy Adams.

Their comments, along with feedback from the Steering Committee, the College Leadership team and the actual chapter-writing committees, were discussed by the writing project manager, the self-study coordinator, and Dr. John Ganio, vice chancellor for education, and used as the bases for revision of the document.

The final draft of the self-study will be made available for general college review midway through the fall 2007 semester. An executive summary will be distributed at professional development day on Oct. 16 at the Meramec campus. The final self-study report and the executive summary will also be available on the Accreditation Web site.

Governance Employee Reviewers:

College Institutional Affairs Council (CIAC) Panel Reviewers
- **Pat Matreci**, Coordinator Media Relations, District Community Relations, CC
- **Janice Hartsfield**, Assistant Professor, Reading, FV
- **Linda Nissenbaum**, Manager Disability Support Services, Access, MC
- **Linda Basich**, Administrative Secretary II, Business/Math/Technology Dean’s Office, FP
- **Carolyn Jackson**, Senior Project Associate II, Executive Dean’s Office, FP

College (Collegewide) Academic Council (CAC) Panel
- **Diane Breitweiser**, Professor, Communications, MC
- **Rich Berne**, Professor, Psychology, FV
- **Kay Garsnett**, Assistant Professor, Library Services, FV