

Accreditation with the
Higher Learning
Commission & AQIP

Presentation to the Board
March 27, 2014

Higher Learning Commission

- A Commission of North Central Association
- Location of Institutions - in 19 Midwest States
- Member Institutions - 1000±
- Peer Review Corps - 1500+



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Three “Pathways” to Accreditation

- **Standard**
 - 10-year cycle
 - Criteria for Accreditation (5)
- **Open**
 - 10-year cycle
 - Criteria for Accreditation (5)
- **AQIP**
 - 7-year cycle
 - Criteria for Accreditation (5) and AQIP Categories (9)

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AQIP and Continuous Improvement

AQIP =
Academic Quality Improvement Program

- Based on philosophy of continuous improvement
- MCC’s accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission
- “Using feedback systematically to stimulate continuous improvement”

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Our Process for Maintaining Accreditation

- **AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program)**
 - 7-year cycle
 - Criteria for Accreditation (5)
 - AQIP Categories (9)

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The Criteria for Accreditation

- **Criterion One: Mission**
- **Criterion Two: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct**
- **Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support**
- **Criterion Four: Evaluation and Improvement**
- **Criterion Five: Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

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AQIP Categories

Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

Valuing People
Leading and Communicating
Supporting Institutional Operations
Planning Continuous Improvement
Building Collaborative Relationships

Helping Students Learn
Accomplishing Other Distinctive Objectives

Measuring Effectiveness

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Deming Cycle

6. Establish improvements into system

7. Plan for more continuous improvement

5. Implement improvement theory and study the results

1. Define the current process

2. Analyze the current situation

3. Analyze causes for current outcomes

4. Develop improvement theory and implementation plan

Act Plan Study Do

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MCC "Action Team" Responsibilities

- Gather a cross-functional team
- Draft project statement ("5 acre field")
- Collect and analyze data ("data informed")
- Develop recommendations ("no surprises")
- Present to Steering Committee (support)
- Monitor implementation (part of MCC culture)

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MCC 2013/2014 Action Team Projects

1. Developing a Strategic Plan
2. Campus Signage
3. Employee Evaluation Process
4. Faculty Web Pages
5. Planning & Measuring Institutional Effectiveness
6. Adjunct Faculty Engagement & Recognition
7. Faculty Evaluation
8. Using the Results of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

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Maintaining Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission

- Annual reporting on three "Action Projects"
- Creation of Systems Portfolio (2009)
- Systems Appraisal Feedback Report (2010)
- Quality Checkup-site visit (2011)
- Reaccreditation (2012)
- Submit 2nd Systems Portfolio (Nov 1, 2013)
- Systems Appraisal Feedback Report (Mar, 2014)

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Three Current Action Projects to HLC


1. Student Success
2. Planning and Measuring Institutional Effectiveness
3. Developing a Strategic Plan

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Ongoing Feedback from the HLC


Action Project Feedback: "MCC is to be applauded for its excellent progress on the AQIP project. The project is to be completed by the end of 2013. The three actions teams— Benchmarking Key Data for Academic and Student Success, Excellence in Teaching, and Educational Master plan--have each achieved significant and mutually supportive goals. Because of the defining of appropriate benchmarking data, strategic decisions were made about access, retention, and persistence. The progress on this project meets the expectations of HLC Criterion 3 Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support. All the initiatives support AQIP Category 1 Helping Students Learn."



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Ongoing Feedback from the HLC


Quality Check-Up: "The review team was impressed by McHenry County College's recognition of and response to the recommendations identified in the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report. The institution has used the recommendations to guide its executive team actions in the year since receiving the report."



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An AQIP Systems Portfolio

- Submitted November 1, 2013
- A snap shot of MCC
- 125 pages/138 questions
 - Process
 - Results
 - Improvements




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Responding to the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report

"Grades" in February, 2010

- SS = outstanding strength (0)
- S = strength (55)
- O = opportunity for improvement (77)
- OO = outstanding opportunity for improvement (11)




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Responding to the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report

February, 2010/**March, 2014**


- SS=outstanding strength (0) **(2)**
- S=strength (55) **(28)**
- O=opportunity for improvement (77) **(39)**
- OO=outstanding opportunity for improvement (11) **(13)**



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Appraisal Results in 2010/2014


AQIP Category	SS	S	O	OO
Helping Students Learn	0/1	21/6	9/10	0/2
Accomplishing Other Distinctive Objectives	0	3	9/5	0
Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs	0/1	5/1	12/5	0
Valuing People	0	8/8	9/6	3
Leading and Communicating	0	4/4	7/3	2/1
Supporting Institutional Operations	0	7/4	8/3	0/1
Measuring Effectiveness	0	1/1	7/1	3/4
Planning Continuous Improvement	0	1/3	9/3	3/3
Building Collaborative Relationships	0	5/1	7/3	0/2



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Measuring Effectiveness	0	1/1	7/1	3/4
Planning Continuous Improvement	0	1/3	9/3	3/3
Building Collaborative Relationships	0	5/1	7/3	0/2

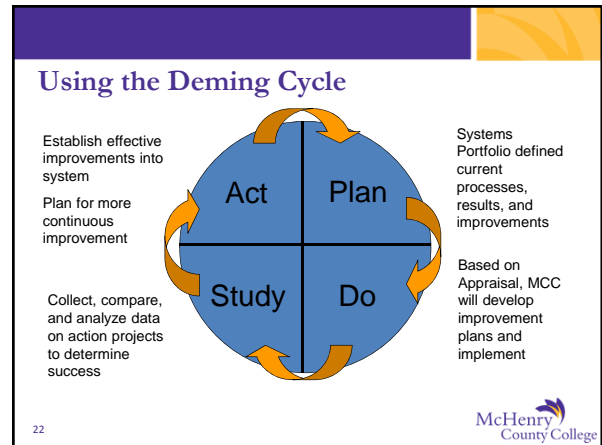
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Narrative Feedback

Systems Appraisal Feedback Report:
 “Committed to a culture of continuous quality improvement, MCC has implemented changes to support organizational operations.”

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- ### Immediate Next Steps
- Letter of Acknowledgment (March 21, 2014)
 - Submitted Application for Peer Reviewer
 - HLC Annual Conference (April 11-14)
 - Decide on next three Action Projects:
 - Measuring Effectiveness – Institution-wide
 - Assessment – Helping Students Learn
 - Systematic Continuous Quality Improvement (“2017 Team”)
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AQIP @ MCC

“Using feedback systematically to stimulate continuous improvement”

What questions do you have?

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