Higher Learning Commission

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

- **Standard**
  - 10-year cycle
  - Criteria for Accreditation (5)
- **Open**
  - 10-year cycle
  - Criteria for Accreditation (5)
  - Quality Initiative project
- **AQIP**
  - 8-year cycle
  - Criteria for Accreditation (5) and AQIP Categories (6)
  - Ongoing Action Projects

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”
HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation

1. Mission
2. Integrity: Ethical & Responsible Conduct
3. Teaching & Learning: Quality, Resources, & Support
4. Evaluation and Improvement
5. Resources, Planning, & Institutional Effectiveness

Six New AQIP Categories

1. Helping Students Learn
2. Understanding Students’ and Other Stakeholders’ Needs
3. Valuing Employees
4. Planning and Leading
5. Knowledge Management and Resource Stewardship
6. Quality Overview
MCC’s accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission

- Brand new 8-year cycle
- Three active “Action Projects” (ongoing)
- Systems Portfolio (2013)
- Strategy Forum (Feb, 2015)
- CQR=Comprehensive Quality Review
- Systems Portfolio (2017)

Systems Portfolio

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

**Systems Appraisal Feedback Report:**

“Committed to a culture of continuous quality improvement, MCC has implemented changes to support organizational operations.”

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1. Respond proactively
2. Align results to key objectives, set performance targets, & analyze systematically
3. Effectively use comparison data
4. Measure the effectiveness of improvement efforts
5. Commit to AQIP principles
Immediate Next Steps—Spring 2014

- Letter of Acknowledgment (March 21, 2014)
- Conversations with HLC
- Submitted Application for Peer Reviewer
- HLC Annual Conference (April 11-14)
- Developed next three Action Projects

Next Steps—Summer 2014

- Dunwoody College of Technology Visit—June 5
- New “test questions” for 2017 Systems Portfolio
- Linked AQIP Categories to MCC Strategic Plan & PACE
- Posted three new Action Projects:
  1. Revising Data Collection for Course Level Objectives
  2. Knowledge Management and Resource Stewardship
  3. Systematic Continuous Improvement
Dunwoody’s Best Practices

- Data Council
- Quality Improvement Council=Category Champs
- Buy-in from the top and across campus
- CI affects everything—especially the bottom line
- Use data to set direction and targets
- Include more flow charts

Next Steps—Fall 2014

- Current Action Teams
- Meet with MCC Category Champs
- Prep for HLC Strategy Forum
  - February 18-20, 2015
  - Team of eight to St Charles
  - Address Systems Appraisal Feedback
Current Action Teams @ MCC

1. **Adjunct Acknowledgment & Appreciation** (Chef Tina)
2. **Using Results to Improve Services for Students** (Kathi Loser & Amy Ortiz)
3. **Service Excellence** (Pat Stejskal)
4. **Data Storage Conservation & Management** (Al Butler)
5. **Employee Evaluation Process** (Tony Miksa)

Strategy Forum—February 18-20, 2015

- Vicky Smith, President
- Tony Miksa, CAO
- Bob Tenuta, CFO
- Amy Humke, Institutional Research
- Robert McCord, Faculty, Assessment Chair
- Bev Dow, Faculty
- Lisa Brncich, Recruitment
- Pat Stejskal, Accreditation Liaison
Next Steps—Spring 2015

- HLC Strategy Forum:
  Team of eight to St Charles to address Systems Appraisal Feedback (February 18-20, 2015)
- Quality Improvement Council
- Category Champs integrate Systems Portfolio
- Kick off new action teams

AQIP @ MCC

- Make AQIP a way of life
- Not “additional duties”—build into Strategic and Departmental Plans
- “Track, analyze, measure, document, compare”
- How do we capture our successes?
AQIP @ MCC

“Using feedback systematically to stimulate continuous improvement”

What questions do you have?