

CLOSE UP ON AQIP



Vol. 1, No. 1
Spring 2006

The 9 AQIP Categories

- I. Helping Students Learn
- II. Accomplishing Other Distinct Objectives
- III. Understanding Students' & Other Stakeholders' Needs
- IV. Valuing People
- V. Leading & Communicating
- VI. Supporting Institutional Operations
- VII. Measuring Effectiveness
- VIII. Planning Continuous Improvement
- IX. Building Collaborative Relationships

These 9 categories are the key processes for measuring and analyzing our institution's performance within AQIP.

Overheard at the AQIP Campus Conversation (February 23-24, 2006)

"The AQIP workshop was an opportunity to reflect on how well our educational purpose matched our practices. These discussions about the culture of Heartland produced a healthy and needed collective self-assessment. I found the interaction encouraging, and I hope we find a means through AQIP to continue the collective self-reflection and the collaborative development of plans to create positive change at HCC."

- Tom Clemens



Upcoming AQIP Events

What: Campus Conversation II
When: April 28, 2006
from 12-2:45 pm
Where: in CCB 2011-2012

Lunch will be provided between 12 and 1. If you plan to come for lunch, please accept the appointment that Marsha Heustis sent out on 4/3/06 via email or call 268-8101.

Heartland Community College
AQIP Newsletter

THE HIDDEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AQIP AND THE WEARING OF TOGAS

As most people are probably aware, AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) is an alternative pathway to accreditation by the NCA. HCC obviously needs to remain fully accredited, but why did HCC choose AQIP instead of taking the more common approach?

The College had a clear choice. We could have followed our previous path (1994, 1998) and written a lengthy history of the College since its last accreditation visit, or we could have chosen AQIP. Last spring several of us (Barb Borg, Deb Wentzel, Doug Salokar, and I) went to a series of Higher Learning Commission meetings in Chicago where we learned about AQIP and how it's different from the usual process. All of us became convinced that HCC was ready for AQIP, and we agreed to recommend it to our colleagues. The great advantage of AQIP, it seemed to us, is that it focuses College-wide attention on the future, emphasizing opportunities to study what we do and propose improvement.

The only remaining question is whether AQIP and NCA can survive the sight of me in a toga.

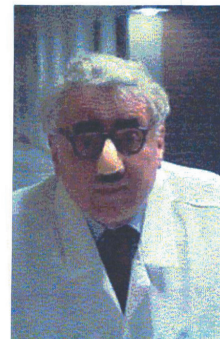
- Allan Saaf

REAL PROGRESS MADE ON GOALS SET AT CAMPUS CONVERSATION!

AQIP is already creating noticeable quality changes at HCC. If you will recall at the end of our Campus Conversation Days, the crowd presented its demands to the VP of Instruction, shouting "Toga! Toga!" This first unofficial Action Project has not been accomplished. Compare the before and after photos... well, that's what I call a makeover. If a picture is worth a thousand words, how many words is

this article worth? First correct response wins the Grand Prize, a \$15 gift certificate from the Heartland Bookstore!

- Doug Salokar



ACTION PROJECTS NEED LEADERS...LIKE YOU!

The stage is set and the play is AQIP! The four Action Projects are the "One-Act Plays" that comprise the theatrical production.

Each "One-Act Play" needs a director, producer, leading actors/actresses, and of course the support team for lights, sets, and costumes. The audience, of course, is the NCA reviewers. We faculty have a unique opportunity to shape the accreditation process starting right now.

I would like to extend an invitation to do an inquiry about the Action Projects. Also, I hope you will all strongly consider leading or participating in one of the Action Project teams. You are needed NOW! Let's all assist in creating a great Heartland Community College AQIP production!

- Deb Wentzel