

The Accreditation Review



Mission: Accreditation
Destination: 2023
Path to Possible

WELCOME!

December 2020, volume 2

We are excited to share with you The Accreditation Review! A monthly newsletter that will: provide accreditation updates, share important information about the process, and serve as a connecting point for all College employees as we move through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) comprehensive evaluation, or as we like to call it "Mission - Accreditation". Last month we learned what accreditation is and why SCC maintains accreditation. Accreditation impacts every area of the College, our students, and the 15-county service area.

Criterion Corner

SCC maintains accreditation with HLC by following the Open Pathway, one of two accreditation pathways. **Every 10 years SCC goes through a full reaffirmation process called the comprehensive evaluation.**

Many of you may be familiar with the term "self-study", which is what HLC used to call the comprehensive evaluation.

As part of the Open Pathway, SCC completes a mid-cycle Assurance Review in Year 4 (2016-17), the Quality Initiative in Years 5-9 (2018-2022), and the Comprehensive Evaluation in Year 10 (2022-2023).

SCC is actively working on the comprehensive evaluation or as we've coined the work, "Mission - Accreditation. Destination 2023!" for the next 2 ½ years.

There are three main components of the comprehensive evaluation: evidence collection, Assurance Argument (written report), and the site visit. Over the next 2 ½ years we will collect thousands of sources of evidence to determine the extent SCC meets HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. Thousands of reports, data, team agendas and meeting minutes, syllabi, presentations, etc. will be gathered and analyzed. Then, SCC will submit a 35,000 word report responding to how SCC meets the five Criteria, along with the evidence files. Finally, a group of site visitors will visit SCC for two days and conduct onsite meetings to validate what was provided in the report and evidence filing.



Save the Date!

Just a couple weeks ago SCC received notice from the Higher Learning Commission that our 10-year comprehensive evaluation will be in April 2023! Please save the date for April 24-25, 2023!

We have a lot of work to do together over the next 2 ½ years to prepare and there will be many opportunities for each of us to get involved.



Need to Know Nook

As we prepare for the Comprehensive Evaluation in April 2023, it's important to understand SCC's accreditation history. Did you know that until 2017, SCC had been on monitoring since 1993?

Monitoring means that SCC did not demonstrate compliance with one or more of the Criteria for Accreditation and therefore needed to make improvements and provide an additional formal report outside of the regular 10-year site visit. Our HLC Liaison, Tom Bordenkircher, brought this history to light during a visit with SCC's Board of Governors in 2018. It is uncommon for an institution to have a long-standing history of monitoring without a stronger sanction. The good news is that in 2017, the College was removed from monitoring for the first time since 1993! This was a very positive step for SCC and the College has continued to make great strides to strengthen its relationship with HLC by deploying several strategies to improve its compliance with HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. More on this positive progress and proactive strategies in future newsletters!

Accreditation Passport

Coming soon! Here's one of many opportunities to get involved! The Accreditation Passport program is specifically designed to help the College community learn about the accreditation process, assist in gathering evidence, and prepare for the site visit. It's going to be fun, easy, and there are prizes!



Shawna's Shout Outs!

Every month Shawna's Shout Outs will include recognition of an individual or team of employees who have gone above and beyond! This month I'd like to recognize Kim Shirk, SCC's extraordinary Human Resources Coordinator. Kim has played a pivotal role in two substantial areas related to SCC's accreditation: coordinating the Quality Initiative (QI) and policies/procedures revision.

As part of Kim's many responsibilities she coordinates all professional development programming at SCC. One of the three primary strategies associated with SCC's Quality Initiative (QI) is providing emotional intelligence and resiliency training to SCC employees. More than two years ago Kim began serving on the QI Steering Team and transitioned into coordinating SCC's QI (also referred to as the Pillar Project) for the last 18 months. Kim has done an outstanding job developing a dynamic training program for a group of employees who are piloting emotional intelligence curriculum ahead of a future collegewide rollout.

Kim also developed a streamlined process to review policies and procedures. This addressed an urgent need for SCC, as our policies and procedures had not undergone a full revision since 1997. Please take some time to check out SCC's policies at: www.southeast.edu/collegepolicyprocedure.

Kim is an outstanding communicator, passionate about student success, and works every day to promote an organizational culture that is compassionate, respectful, transparent, positive, and reflective. And if you haven't had the privilege to meet her in person, Kim exudes all of those qualities on a daily basis, especially positivity!

Thank you, Kim, for sharing your time and talents with SCC. Your passion and commitment to SCC's accreditation makes a difference. Questions about SCC's accreditation? Please email sccaccreditation@southeast.edu or sherwick@southeast.edu.

Looking ahead...

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to meet the Accreditation Steering Team and learn more about SCC's comprehensive evaluation process.

