

Self-Study News

AY 2007-08, Issue 1

“Charting Futures, Connecting Worlds”

August 17, 2007

Dates to Watch

August 14-31

Take All-Employee Survey Online

September 6 and 7

Campus-Wide HLC Workshops

September 10

Project Manager Meeting

Steering Committee Contacts:

Dr. Terry Leyba-Ruiz

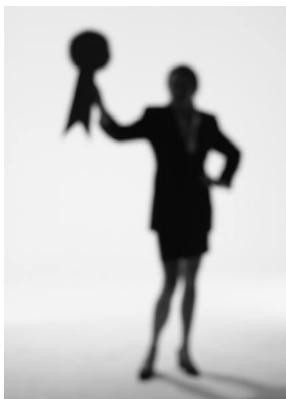
Chris Haines

Sara Kinsey

Dr. Joyce Elsner

Dr. Linda Lujan

Mike Lewis



Just Another Survey? Not!

In a world that increasingly asks us to rate our satisfaction in survey format, whether it be from a telemarketer or an online survey, adding another survey to the lives of already busy SMCC employees may not seem like the best idea.

But the All-Employee survey, now available online, is far from being “just another survey”.

First, the questions presented in the survey are specifically designed to solicit feedback from faculty and staff that will help the HLC criterion committees assess whether SMCC is meeting the standards of the Higher Learning Commission. In the last three months each of the five SMCC criterion committees created and contributed their own focus questions for the survey. Then, at the Project Managers meeting on June 11, managers spent time sorting through the survey questions to eliminate needless repetition and to improve question clarity.



Also, the data collected from this survey, though completely anonymous, will provide important information about the needs and perspectives of each employee group within our college, needs of which the HLC committees must be aware if their bid for accreditation is to be successful.

Two online links, one for the faculty survey and one for the staff/employee survey, have been deployed campus-wide via SMCC email. If you have not received these links please notify an HLC committee member. The HLC committees need your 100% participation!

Congratulations HLC Quiz Winners!

Please congratulate the recent winners of this summer’s “Mission Quiz”, delivered courtesy of Rob Price through our campus email.

The first contest quiz was distributed the week of June 4th. The

names of all individuals who submitted the correct answer were entered into a drawing for a \$5 gift certificate at the Take-10 Cafeteria, courtesy of Aramark.

The winners are as follows:

Quiz #1: Liz Estrada

Quiz #2: Cecelia Blaise

Quiz #3: Lynette Humes

Quiz #4: Kathie Hawkins

These winners really knew the Mission of South Mountain College! Good work, ladies! Congratulations!

Criterion #3: Student Learning and Effective Teaching

The focus of Criterion #3 is on assessing whether or not SMCC students are actually learning while they are with us, and whether the campus environment is conducive to their success. It also asks us to evaluate whether or not our entire institution supports student learning by providing sufficient resources for students and teachers. The criterion reads as follows:

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effective-

ness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

3a. The organization's goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible.



3B. The organization values and supports effective teaching.

3c. The organization creates effective learning environments.

3d. The organization's learning resources support student learning and effective teaching.

Believing that each of us has a specific role in our students' success at South Mountain will ensure that we meet the standards of Criterion #3.

HLC Mini-Workshops Planned

All SMCC faculty and staff are invited to participate in two mini-workshops being held September 6 from 12:30-3:00 p.m., and September 7 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in SU100AB.

Serving as a follow-up to the January Self-Study Kick-Off event last spring, the Steering Committee will usher in the new semester by providing all staff and faculty this exciting opportu-

nity to network and reconnect. Each two hour block will contain two mini-sessions designed to strengthen lines of communication as well as our understanding of each of our contributions to the whole that is South Mountain Community College.

As our campus works toward a successful Self-Study report, HLC evaluation visit, and continued accreditation, our success depends

greatly on our ability to be unified in our mission. Our campus is, quite literally, only as strong as the existing relationships within our institution.

Faculty and staff need only attend one of the scheduled workshop days (Thursday afternoon **or** Friday morning). A light lunch and breakfast, respectively, will be served before each workshop session. See you there!

"Casting" for Criteria Data Continues!

Fall 2007 promises to be a very busy semester for all Self-Study Committee members.



The gathering of data, to be reported and interpreted in our

report to the Higher Learning Commission, will continue throughout August, September, and October, with "all nets hauled in" by the end of this coming November.

The next step, beginning in December, will be to begin

evaluating the gathered data, and then to create the necessary written analysis for each criterion component.

The deadline for submitting criterion committee reports to the Steering Committee has been set for mid-March of 2008.