

February 2014

Office of Planning and Institutional Research

Reaffirmation Preparations Being Made

Pearl River Community College is in the process of seeking reaffirmation for the next ten years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the southern United States. Accreditation is often defined as a process "intended to assure constituents and the public of quality and integrity of higher education institutions and programs and to help those institutions and programs improve." The accreditation process requires institutions to meet stringent standards set by SACSCOC and includes written reports in addition to campus visits. Recently, members of the College Leadership Team attended the SACSCOC Orientation meeting in Atlanta held January 26-27. Dr. William

Lewis, President, said, "This is an extremely important process for the College which gives us the opportunity to document the many improvements that we have made during the past ten years. It is important for everyone to be a part of this process and assist as needed." The College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a necessary component of accreditation. All PRCC faculty, staff, students, and administrators along with community members had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities for a viable QEP topic which will enhance student learning. When the SACSCOC On-Site Team visits Pearl River Community College during the 2015 Fall Semester, a major focus of the visit will be evaluation of the proposed QEP. "Numerous Focus Group

meetings, chaired by Dr. Jennifer Seal (Director of



QEP Topic Selection Committee

Institutional Effectiveness), have been held at all campus locations to review suggestions and finalize recommendations for the QEP topic," said Dr. Becky Askew, Vice President for Planning and Institutional Research. The previous QEP titled *"The Enhancement of Student Learning Outcomes in Selected Mathematics Courses through an Emphasis on Technology-Based Instruction"* established the Math^{Power} Labs on the Poplarville Campus and at the Forrest County Center. Im-

plementation of the QEP changed instructor pedagogy through increasing student responsibility for learning mathematics content. The Math^{Power} Labs provide students with technological resources in completing assignments and individualized assistance if needed.

Continual improvement is the core of the SACSCOC accreditation process. "Assessment is a necessary, cyclical process which documents changes made as a result of our data," said Dr. Seal. "PRCC's instructors and administrators have done a great job in conducting instructional and non-instructional reviews college-wide. It is imperative that everyone be involved in the assessment process." Pearl River Community College is working hard and remains determined to demonstrate an environment of continual improvement.

Pearl River Community College



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Office of Planning and Institutional Research

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Evaluation Process Underway

Pearl River Community College's evaluation policy states the following: "Faculty, staff, and administrators who have been employed at Pearl River Community College for fewer than six years will be evaluated annually. Faculty, staff, and administrators who have been employed at Pearl River Community College for six or more years will be evaluated at least every three years. All personnel can be evaluated as often as needed if there are concerns regarding their performance, if required by accrediting agencies, or if there are other needs as determined by the supervisor."

Schedule for Evaluations

February 26—Performance Review of Supervisor reports distributed to administrators/supervisors

February 26—Personnel Evaluation forms emailed to administrators/supervisors

March 5—Schedules for Personnel Evaluations sent to Office of Planning and Institutional Research

2013 SACSCOC Annual Meeting Students Are Central to Success

Pearl River Community College administrators attended the 2013 SACSCOC Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 7-10, 2013. The theme was "Students Are Central to Success." While the conference focused on preparing for accreditation and improving the overall institutions included those dealing with times, enhancing the assessment challenges of a changing



SACSCOC region

helping member schools understand and compliance, it also addressed means for accreditation and student learning. Workshop sessions with adaptive leadership for challenging assessment of student learning, and meeting the higher education landscape.