Northwest Commission on College and University (NWCCU)
Annual Update for WSQA
Academic Year 2013-2014
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Accreditation recommendations to the College and year of recommendation	Actions taken by the college to address recommendations	Improvement results
The College hosted a *Year Seven Comprehensive* site visit in October 2013, which resulted in five recommendations: 1. The evaluation committee recommends that for each year of operation, the College undergo an external financial audit and that the results from such audits, including findings and management letter recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees. (Eligibility Requirement 19; Standard 2.F.7)	1. Since receiving Recommendation 1, the College has revised its financial statements to meet generally accepted accounting principles and contracted with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) to conduct independent financial audits each year of operation.	1. The first independent audit is scheduled to be completed April of 2015. The College will be in full compliance by fall 2015.

2. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution develops systematic and college-wide means to assess the student learning outcomes associated with general education and demonstrate that these data are used to inform decision-making. It is further recommended that the institution develop a systematic and college-wide means to assess the student learning outcomes of programs in relation to the institution's mission and demonstrate that these data are used to inform decision-making at that level. (Standard 2.C.2, 2.C.9, 2.C.10; 4.A.1, and 4.A2)	2. The College convened a standing assessment committee consisting of faculty, instructional deans, and ex-officio members representing institutional research and curriculum. The committee was charged with developing, implementing, and overseeing a college-wide comprehensive process to assess student learning outcomes at the course, program, and college-wide level that is purposeful, systematic, and faculty-driven. To address the second half of the recommendation, the College has implemented a program review process to evaluate instructional and student services programs.	2. To date, the College has accomplished the following: a. Adopted a four-year assessment cycle to assess one general education learning outcome per year. The College will assess *problem-solving* in 2014-15, followed by *communication, global awareness*, and *responsibility*. b. Hired two faculty assessment coordinators to assist faculty with assessment of learning outcomes at all levels. c. Seven instructional programs and 4 student services programs began their program review process in fall 2014.
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the Board of Trustees develop and implement a self-evaluation instrument to regularly evaluate its performance to ensure its duties and responsibilities are fulfilled in an effective and efficient manner. (Standard 2.A.8)	3. As requested, the SCC provided the Commission with a letter and relevant evidence by April 1, 2014 to attest that the College's Board of Trustees indeed evaluates its performance to ensure its duties and responsibilities are fulfilled in an effective an efficient manner.	3. In correspondence dated April 25, 2014, the College was informed that on the basis of the letter and evidence submitted, the Commission determined that SCC is in compliance with Standard 2.A.8. No further action required.
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the College appropriately revise the community responsiveness core theme indicators to be meaningful, assessable, or verifiable. (Standard 1.B.2)	4. Following a merger in June 2013 with the CCS' Institute of Extended Learning, the President convened a *Mission and Core Themes Taskforce* to review the College's vision, mission, core themes, and value statements. The taskforce recommended a new mission and a revision to its core themes to reflect the College's reorganization and new instructional offerings.	4. The new mission and revised core themes were vetted and approved by all stakeholders, both internal and external to the College, and approved by the CCS Board in June 2014.

	After college-wide input, the taskforce unanimously agreed that the fourth core theme, *community responsiveness*, though still an integral aspect of what the College does and values, no longer represented a separate fundamental element of the new mission. Instead a new core theme, *college readiness*, was proposed to represent an essential elemental added to the new mission as a result of the merger with IEL.	
5. The evaluation committee recommends that planning for library and information resources be guided by data that include feedback from affected users and appropriate library and information resources faculty, staff, and administrators. It is further recommended that the institution regularly and systematically evaluate the equality, adequacy, utilization, and security of all library and information resources and services. (Standard 2.E.2 and 2.E.4)	5. Since receiving Recommendation 5, the SCC library had taken a number of steps to ensure that planning for library and information resources is guided by data and feedback from appropriate stakeholders.	5. To date, the library has accomplished the following: a. Implemented several surveys to collect feedback from faculty and students regarding services provided and availability/quality of resources in the library. b. Created an online purchase request that allows faculty, staff, and students to submit suggestions for information resources they like added to the library's collection. c. Developed several reports on collection utilization, quality, and subject distribution to evaluate the collection's level of currency, depth, and breadth to support the institution's mission, core themes, programs and services. d. Conducted a peer-reviewed self-study to focusing on identifying strengths and weaknesses and developing recommendations for improvement based on data.