



HLC SELF-STUDY REFLECTION DAY

JANUARY 12, 2007

Adams State College has set aside Friday, January 12, to bring students, faculty, and staff together to reflect on the college's *Self-Study* for ten-year, continuing regional accreditation. This will help prepare the campus for the upcoming site visit by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC).

The *Self-Study* process is designed to aid the college in addressing issues and moving forward. The report's assessment of ASC's Strengths, Challenges, and Opportunities are summarized on page 2. Faculty are asked to take a few minutes in each of their classes to gather student reactions to share on January 12. College departments are also asked to bring staff together for preparatory discussion. The questions below will help stimulate these discussions.

Regional Accreditation:

- Guarantees the quality of our degree programs
- Ensures transferability of degrees
- Ensures our graduates will be able to enter graduate and professional programs
- Ensures our graduates will be eligible for particular jobs
- Qualifies college for federal financial aid (Title IV)
- Stimulates self-reflection and improvement of the institution

Site Visit February 26-28, 2007

The HLC consultant/evaluator team will be all over campus talking to individuals.

They will probably stop in and ask you questions!

- Be completely honest; don't try to hide anything.
- Be friendly and polite.
- Be as helpful as possible.
- If you can't help them, try to find someone who can.

They will be interested in our mission and how we go about achieving our institutional goals. They will also be interested in how the campus has been involved in the self-study process.

The *Self-Study* and updated information about the site visit are available at <http://www2.adams.edu/hlc/>

Other important campus documents can be found at <http://www2.adams.edu/pubs/>

HLC can be contacted at (312) 263-0456 or www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

1. How does your daily activity increase the probability of student learning?
 - a. Computing Services example: provide technology for student learning
 - b. Cafeteria example: provide meals for students
 - c. Facilities Services example: provide clean and comfortable buildings
2. What can we do differently to increase student learning?
3. How does your department or unit enhance a student-centered environment?
 - a. Enrollment Management example: creation of One Stop so students don't have to run around campus to find answers
 - b. Faculty example: CELT training
 - c. Financial Aid example: make it comfortable for students to ask questions and receive answers regarding financial aid
4. How does your daily activity serve and engage the student population? The ASC community? Alamosa and the SLV?
 - a. Music Department example: offer courses to students; provide concerts and musical events to campus and community
 - b. Counseling and Career Center example: provide workshops to students like Backpack to Briefcase, stress reduction, etc.; offer some career services to community
 - c. Administrative Assistant example: answer questions when students or community members call
5. How can the communication processes at ASC be improved? What can you or your unit do to improve the processes?

GET ON BOARD



GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. What do the ASC faculty and staff do to promote your learning?
2. Do you feel ASC is student-centered? Why or why not?
3. What can ASC do to improve the campus environment for students?

ADAMS STATE COLLEGE SELF-STUDY FINDINGS

STRENGTHS

Planning & Budgeting

- ASC's planning and budgeting processes assure stability. The mission documents reflect an inclusive and ongoing process of development and revision. Subsidiary plans, such as the *Academic Master Plan* and *Information Technology Plan*, are directly linked to the *Strategic Plan*, which is linked to the *Mission, Vision, and Institutional Goals*. This ensures that scarce resources are not spent at cross-purposes, but are used consistently to address stated campus priorities.

Grants

- Grant applications and awards have increased in the past ten years, with nearly \$8.5 million received between 2003 and 2006. ASC actively seeks grants such as Title V to assist with professional development for faculty and staff.

Diversity

- ASC has a highly diverse student and staff population, with nearly one-third identified as ethnic minorities. We are a Hispanic Serving Institution, committed to providing an environment that supports the needs of a diverse constituency.

Assessment

- ASC has always placed a high premium on teaching effectiveness and its role in student learning.
- The *Academic Assessment Plan* bases curricular decisions on continuous assessment results. This strengthens student learning outcomes and ensures that learning remains at the forefront.
- ASC compares favorably to peer institutions in most categories on national surveys of student engagement and satisfaction.

General Education

- ASC's General Education program was the first approved for statewide transfer.

Outreach

- Via a wide range of outreach projects, ASC collaborates with and provides service to its region. Faculty, staff, and administrators are involved in community organizations and other volunteer work. Students are placed in local school districts, human service programs, and businesses for internships, field studies, and practica.

CHALLENGES

Funding

- ASC must establish the ZBB database and change the institution's accounting and budgeting processes. Campus-wide ZBB training is needed, as is more effective communication regarding alignment of budget priorities with the *Mission and Institutional Goals*.
- The State of Colorado's funding for higher education will continue to be an issue as ASC stays true to its mission to serve the underserved and keep tuition costs as low as possible.
 - In the absence of adequate state funding, ASC has had to allocate already limited resources toward deferred maintenance.
 - Instructional and infrastructure technology are significant concerns.
 - State funding will influence whether ASC can continue to remedy salary compression and inversion, in an effort to maintain top-notch, dedicated faculty.
 - Each cost unit budget should include a line item for faculty and staff development.
 - Funds are needed to recognize and reward superior performance by faculty and staff.
 - ASC's ability to take advantage of significant grant opportunities is limited without a position dedicated to grant writing.

Diversity

- ASC must work harder to recruit and increase the percentage of minority faculty members, with the goal of matching the diversity level of the student body and surrounding community.

Communication

- ASC must continue to improve its communication with both the campus and community. More must be done to involve off-campus students and community members in review of the college mission documents.

Outreach

- The College must find ways to extend its support for community economic, educational, and cultural interests beyond the San Luis Valley to the larger southern Colorado service area, as specified in state statute.

OPPORTUNITIES

Budget & Finance

- The Crosswalk program evaluates how the institution's goals are being met across campus. This process links assessment and budgeting. Now is an opportune time to integrate assessment into the campus culture.

Diversity

- ASC is developing a meaningful diversity plan.
- ASC received \$5 million to renovate Plachy Hall and enhance Title IX compliance. Phase II funding will be requested in 2007.

Student Support

- ASC can expand its successful programs for first-year students to upper-division students, with the goal of increasing retention rates.
- ASC's recent change in leadership creates opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved in moving the College forward.

Technology

- Technology allows ASC to fulfill its role as a Regional Education Provider. An Office of Academic Computing is being established to support continued expansion of technology use in the classroom, as well as in hybrid and online courses.

Outreach

- ASC's Office of Community Partnerships has opportunities to expand relationships with community businesses, art and cultural groups, and other vested constituencies. We can also build on the success of such projects as *Dead Man Walking* and *Einstein's Dreams* to enhance campus and community collaboration.

