Accreditation Update

July 29, 2014
Background

- Accreditation for City, Mesa, and Miramar Colleges, and Continuing Education was reaffirmed in 2010.

- The next Accreditation visit is in Fall 2016.

- The four institutions will begin the self-study process in 2014-2015.

- The standards for accreditation were revised, effective June 2014.
  - Changes reflect changes in both state and regulatory environments, and expectations for transparency and educational quality.
Standards

- There are four standards that work together to define and promote student success, academic quality, institutional integrity and excellence.

  - Standard I—Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity
  
  - Standard II—Student Learning Programs and Support Services
  
  - Standard III—Resources
  
  - Standard IV—Leadership and Governance
Summary of Changes

• Reduced redundancy.

• Reordered sections within each standard to improve flow.

• Added introduction to each standard with clarification of intent.

• Added requirements for baccalaureate degree.

• Added requirements in various areas.
Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity

- Expanded role of mission of the college.

- Added specific subsection on academic quality.
  - Defines expectations for student outcomes, including publication of standards for student achievement set by the institution.
  - Expectation that institutions assess standards for student achievement.
  - Expectation that institutions use assessment data to allocate and reallocate resources to support student achievement.

- Added Institutional Integrity as a separate subsection.
  - Existing and new expectations for integrity and honesty in actions.
Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity - Continued

- Requires institutions to analyze outcomes and academic achievement for subpopulations.
  - Requires institutions to implement strategies to fill gaps and assess efficacy of these strategies.

- Added requirement to inform current and prospective students of the total cost of education.
Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Support Services

- Overall, standard reflects the requirements of Title 5 for instructional programs and student support programs.

- Specifies expectation that institutions schedule courses in a manner that allows students to complete degrees and certificates within a period of time, consistent with expectations of higher education.

- Defines expectations for co-curricular programs and athletics, including integrity and sound educational policy.

- Added expectation that institutions advise students of program requirements to ensure a clear understanding in order to achieve academic goals.
Standard III: Resources

- Articulates expectations for multi-college districts.
  - The district is responsible to meet the standard when the district is responsible for allocation of resources and planning.
Standard IV: Leadership and Governance

- Specifies expectations for delineation of roles and responsibilities in governance.
- Specifies expectations for effective communication of institutional decisions.
- Specifies that the president has the primary leadership role for accreditation.
- Establishes expectations for delineation of roles, authority and responsibility between the colleges and district.
- Specifies that district planning and evaluation are integrated with college planning and evaluation to improve institutional effectiveness.
Questions