



# PCPerspective

higher learning commission/north central association  
accreditation at phoenix college

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HLC/NCA ACCREDITATION

October 2004

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## HLC Chairs

Marian Gibney, Co-Chair  
Brent Jameson, Co-Chair

## Criterion Chairs

Mission and Integrity  
Denny Sheehan

Preparing for the Future  
Ann Roselle

Student Learning and  
Effective Teaching  
Mike Mitchell

Acquisition, Discovery, and  
Application of Knowledge  
Karen Christen

Engagement and Service  
Queta Chavez

Lead Writer  
Nancy Matte

Editor  
Patricia Zaccardo

## Futher Information

HLC/NCA Secretary  
Adriana Loera, 602-285-7906

Website  
phoenixcollege.edu/nca



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A Maricopa Community College



Executive Group: Dr. Corina Gardea, Brent Jameson, Casandra Kakar and Marian Gibney.

## Self-Study Successes

by President Corina Gardea

It is a pleasure to comment on the great work already accomplished and goals planned for our self-study. The PC Self-Study Steering Committee has maintained a laser focus on its charge and the start of a new semester introduces the next phase of our process.

You will see increased activity and will be invited to become more involved in our self-study. Our criterion committees need to have all employee groups represented and that is one way to participate. Your knowledge and experience will be tremendous assets.

Another way to participate is to attend the Open House to be held on Oct. 20. All departments and offices are encouraged to create opportunities for all employees, including student employees, to attend.

I am proud to inform you that two Phoenix College faculty members have been selected to

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*Self-Study Successes, continued*

present at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Assessment Institute. The topic to be presented on November 1, 2004 by Mike Mitchell and Darrell Carnahan is entitled, "Opening a Dialogue: Assessment Cost and Accountability." I applaud these faculty for sharing their knowledge at a national conference.

As you can see in this newsletter, our self-study project is an invitation to get involved in this valuable self-review cycle. Now is the time to become more informed about our process and if you're not involved to get involved!



## Coordinators' Column

By Marian Gibney and Brent Jameson

On June 11, 2004 the HLC/NCA criterion chairs, co-coordinators and President Gardea held an all-day retreat off campus for the purpose of evaluating the past academic year's self-study activities and successes and to consider future plans.

Following is a list of some of the successes noted:

- Communication in the campus community regarding the self-study is very good. It is becoming more widely known among employee groups.

- The criterion chairs have shown strong leadership in conducting discussions and in seeking data.
- The writers have developed a template, which will facilitate the process of documenting the evidence collected.
- The campus community is profiting from an introspective look at what we do and how successful we are at doing it.
- The Administration is very strong in its support of the self-study process.

One important concept to remember is that this self-study must be "evaluative" in nature rather than "descriptive." We must truly look at our institutional effectiveness at every level and

be prepared to make positive changes, which will assist us in better fulfilling our mission.

It has become apparent that the success of this self-study depends largely on broad involvement in this process. We welcome input and suggestions from faculty, administration, staff, students, and the community. We will have many opportunities this academic year to become more knowledgeable and better informed about our self-study and to examine how we can all work together to improve our effectiveness.

We encourage your involvement.

## Jump In, Get Wet and Enjoy the Experience!!!

by Casandra Kakar, Interim Dean of Instruction

My role with NCA/HLC has made a transition from participant and resource contact on Criterion Five to the Administrative Liaison for the study. The role change is due to the new position I accepted effective July 1, 2004.

Brent Jameson and Marian Gibney, our co-chairs for the study, asked me to give you my perspective of the NCA/HLC process in our fall newsletter. My message to the campus is jump in, get wet and enjoy the experience! The process comes around once every ten years and there is no time like the present to jump in and participate. Think of participating in the study like exploring a big swimming pool. You can wade in the shallow end or dive head first into the deep! There is a spectrum of participation levels:

### Waders

- Explore the Phoenix College website  
[www.pc.maricopa.edu/nca](http://www.pc.maricopa.edu/nca)
- Read the Newsletters, published twice a semester
- Visit the HLC/NCA Resource Room in HC3 (lower level)
- Attend Informational Events  
– Next event is October 20th, an Open House from 11:30 – 1:30!



*Criterion Chairs: Denny Sheehan, Ann Roselle, Mike Mitchell, Karen Christen and Queta Chavez.*

### Dog Paddlers

- Bring your class to one of the Informational Events
- Call the Criterion Chairs and learn more about their needs. Each chair is listed in the Phoenix College Telephone Directory, under the HLC/NCA Accreditation heading.
- Attend one of the criterion meetings held throughout the fall semester.
- Read the rough draft that will be released in April 2005. Make suggestions to Criterion Chairs and our HLC/NCA Co-Chairs.
- Arrange for one of our co-chairs to attend your department meeting and answer questions.

### Olympic Divers

- Join a Criterion Committee now!
- Learn about the new format and prepare yourself to be a Criterion Chair in 2014. You have ten years for training!
- Email Dr. Nancy Matte, [nancy.matte@pcmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:nancy.matte@pcmail.maricopa.edu). She is heading up our Writing Team. Explore the possibilities of shadowing a writer. There is a writer for each criterion, so there are a lot of opportunities!
- Plan to attend the HLC/NCA Conference in Chicago before the next accreditation, between now and 2016.

What ever depth of participation you decide to take you will enjoy the experience. Phoenix College has an outstanding, innovative team working on the study!

# Self-Study Mission and Goals

## SELF-STUDY MISSION

In support of its primary purpose - student learning - Phoenix College will use this self-study to prepare for continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, to evaluate strengths and opportunities for improvement in accordance with the college mission statement, and use it as a guiding document for continuing educational and institutional improvement.

## SELF-STUDY GOALS

### Accreditation

Achieve a ten-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Engage all college constituencies in the self-study and publicize the results.

### Evaluation

Demonstrate responses to concerns from the last self-study.

Provide evidence that practices and processes are aligned with

the college vision, mission, and goals.

### Improvement

Evaluate the viability of college practices and processes.

Utilize outcomes of the self-study as a guide to improvement.

### Leadership

Provide learning opportunities for faculty leaders in preparation for accreditation efforts beyond 2006.



HLC team hard at work.

 **PHOENIX**  
COLLEGE  
1202 West Thomas Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85013

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