



# ACCREDITATION

# LETTER



## VETERANS DAY

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, SIPI, is an American Indian community of over 80 tribes represented who remember their veterans' sacrifices forever. The SIPI campus grounds are visited by the Veterans both students and staff who have served in the different branches of the military and we pay tribute to these soldiers who have come back home. SIPI recognizes and gives honor to the Veterans who are currently attending and have attended college and we give them thanks for their sacrifices to their tribal communities, and freedom for all.



## ACCREDITATION UP-DATE

January 4-6th, 2011, SIPI will be involved in a "MOCK" review in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission, HLC visit, March 21-23, 2011. The "MOCK" review will be set-up by the SIPI administrative staff to align with all of the activities that will be taking place during the visit by HLC in March. The professionals who will conduct the review will review all of the documents and complete interviews with the SIPI staff just as the HLC review team would do. Once the review is completed the review team will provide feed back regarding the results of their findings and make recommendations for changes. In the October news letter the individual committees were recognized by the individual Criterion and the work that these members are doing is very important because all the documents they are currently gathering and filing will be key to support the SIPI Self Study Report which supports future planning and accreditation.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mission statements should not just be words that look well printed in calligraphy and hung on the wall in a fancy gold frame. The mission should state our purpose; the reason we are in business. It reflects the reason that our college opens its doors everyday. It's the passion behind the college, that is our purpose; our mission.

"Mission Statements" and "Vision Statements" do two distinctly different jobs:

A **Mission Statement** defines the organization's purpose and primary objectives. Its prime function is internal – to define the key measure or measures of the organization's success – and its prime audience is the leadership team and both internal and external stakeholders.

**Vision Statements** also define the organizations purpose, but this time they do so in terms of the organization's values rather than bottom line measures (values are guiding beliefs about how things should be done.) The vision statement communicates both the purpose and values of the organization. For employees, it gives direction about how they are expected to behave and inspires them to give their best. Shared with customers, it shapes customers' understanding of why they should work with the organization.

With this in mind a series of strategy sessions were used to gather internal and external input. For example three sessions were held on campus each for students and faculty/staff. The sequence of these strategy sessions permitted wide and informed input for SIPI's new mission and value statements. A strategic planning workshop for SIPI's Board of Regents and SIPI's administrative staff also provided a background and a wide review for the formulation of a new mission and vision statement.



## Getting to Know SIPI, The SIPI MISSION STATEMENT, Cont:

It is the mission of the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, a national Indian community college, to provide quality technical and higher education opportunities that meet the dynamic needs of federally recognized tribes. This endeavor provides opportunities for students: to enter the technological workforce as self-sufficient and contributing members of society; to acquire higher levels of academic achievement; to enrich and enhance student learning and self-esteem by responding to mental, physical, spiritual, and cultural needs.

### VISION STATEMENT:

SIPI is proud to be a national Indian community college and seeks to be recognized as a national leader providing quality technical and higher education opportunities to American Indian and Alaskan Native students. This progressive, fully accredited two-year college endeavors to be seen by American Indian and Alaskan Native nations throughout the U.S. as a partner in the efforts of their communities to be economically competitive, culturally enriched, and socially cohesive. They are confident that at SIPI, their young people will receive exceptional individual attention to enable each student to reach his [and/or her] full academic potential. SIPI takes incoming students who may be academically less well prepared and provides quality programs so they can graduate and compete with the best. SIPI is a college with the institutional autonomy, flexibility, and vision necessary to create models that others adopt and is dedicated to preparing our students for the future.

### VALUES:

As a national Indian community college, SIPI will adhere to the following values and goals within its structure, policies and practices: (Source: SIPI's Strategic Plan 2002-2010)

□ **Respect for tribal sovereignty, self-determination, self-governance, and recognition of treaty obligations.** The college is cognizant of the existence of Indian Nations as sovereign nations with the inherent right of self-determination and self-governance. The goals of the college are accomplished within this scope through collaborative partnerships with tribal entities.

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□ **Relevance.** With the impact of global trends affecting Indian nations, the college strives to deliver culturally, socially, and economically relevant information, training, and services that will offer long-term solutions and encourages life-long learning among students.

□ **Respect for Diversity.** The college values and supports diversity within its structure and within the individuals and communities that are served.

□ **Holistic Approaches.** The college provides a holistic learning environment for students including affective, cognitive, and social enhancement.

□ **Integrity and Professionalism.** The college strives to provide the highest quality instruction, services, and learning resources to American Indian and Alaskan Native students and communities.

□ **Promote Enhancement and Excellence for all American Indians.** The college fosters partnerships with other organizations and consortiums that promote educational access, enhancement and excellence for all American Indian and Alaskan Natives.



### SIPI SPOTLIGHT ON THE FACULTY

Mr. Sam Henderson, Vision Care Technology Program, at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, came to SIPI from owning his own business to coordinate and instruct the Vision Care Program for SIPI.

Mr. Henderson has completely modernized the vision care program and has created a, "state-of-the-art" program. When Mr. Henderson first came to SIPI the program was set-up in one big room, now, when you enter the Vision Care classroom, it is totally changed, you enter with the feeling of actually going into a Vision Care store/office. When you take the tour you will see a program that provides hands-on, interactive, teaching and learning centers. These learning centers are set-up to mirror the actual setting of a Vision Care

Store. The Vision Care Technology Program is a two year degree program providing transferable curriculum which educates students to become optician/ophthalmic dispensers. A dispenser accurately interprets and evaluates the consumer's prescription for the fitting of eye-glasses and contact lenses.

Mr. Henderson is currently the Committee Chairman of the Curriculum Committee and has provided leadership to guide the committee to prepare necessary documents that are critical in supporting SIPI's accreditation process.