

SIPI ACCREDITATION

LETTER

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Higher Learning commission, HLC, onsite visit at SIPI, March 21-23, 2011, is completed.

I would like to provide you with an **unofficial summary** of the visit, the review went very well and it was positive for SIPI. Very briefly and most importantly, the visiting team found:

1. SIPI meets the eligibility requirements for **continued candidacy** (we are very happy about this!) Note: They will provide a recommended time frame for applying for accreditation.
2. We are making reasonable progress—we met all expectations regarding the issues identified in the July 2, 2010 final letter
3. HLC is in process of establishing a flexible timeline for this to happen. We have demonstrated that we are building the infrastructure and are implementing strategic planning; however, they feel that we need 2 cycles of data and we need to have time to implement our processes in order for it to be successful.

The team commended the progress we made in a very short time frame and they said our progress is “remarkable”. The team was very impressed with the knowledge of everyone on campus about SIPI and our processes and they reiterated that everyone spoke with “one voice”. The team commended us on the culture of inclusiveness and participation of everyone, budget process, strategic plan, self study, and the establishment of the President’s Cabinet. The team was especially impressed that everyone had knowledge about our mission/visions/goals/values.

Numerous times they mentioned the dedication and passion of our entire staff, faculty and students and our partners and supporters.

The review team will provide us with a written report in about 6 weeks, and they will provide recommendations for improvement. We have a couple of areas we need to work on, development of the Institutional Research Office as we recently hired Edward Hummingbird who will be instrumental in this process, and professional development. We still have a bit of work in a few areas but not like what we had after our December 2009 visit—we have come a long way!!!

We should all be **VERY PROUD** of our collective efforts—it paid off!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



ONE STEP BACK “WHAT’S NEXT”?

After a summary report from the president regarding the Higher Learning Commission’s on-site review, the committee’s and the departments will take one-step-back to regroup and set new planning directions to continue working with all of the recommendations that are in need of changes, modifications and development.

The departments, programs, and committee’s began working on collecting and reporting what each committee, forum, and meetings that were held with the HLC teams to collect and take actions regarding information that was shared at each meeting and to take the recommendations of the HLC facilitator regarding the issues that were brought up during the Criterion meetings and forums.

The recommendations will be recorded and the individual committee’s and programs will use the comments and recommendation to support the future planning in all areas.