

# Journey of *Self* Discovery

Reaffirmation of Accreditation: **Journey Report**, September 2009

Welcome back to all of you from the 2010 Self Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation Leadership Team. We hope that the presentations and FLEX workshops of last week were successful in reacquainting you with the continuing efforts in our self study process. In addition, I would like to give a report of the activities and events over the past few months.

## **Convocation 2009**

The 2009 Convocation featured a presentation on the reaffirmation of accreditation process itself, the outline of chapter one, *The Student and Community Profile*, and individual reports from the co-chairs of the focus groups A, B, C and D.

Home group meetings conducted during the FLEX portion of convocation, 2009 were very successful. Ninety percent (90%) of survey respondents felt it was very informative and appreciated the opportunity to provide evidentiary discussion and documentation on the quality of SDCE's instructional programs. All home groups successfully responded to the required WASC Manual *Focus on Learning* guide questions. Home group leaders conducted their respective meeting in an outstanding manner, and will send the electronic copy of responses to focus groups leaders by the end of this week.

I have attached a listing of all the focus groups including the names of the co-chairs for your convenience. If you would like to join any of the groups, please contact the co-chairs directly.

## **Self Study of Institutional Effectiveness Web Page**

Last year, we established a self study webpage accessible at <http://accreditation.sdce.edu> or from the SDCE website at "faculty resources". Please access it for the latest in news and events and other important items concerning our self study efforts, including these monthly updates.

## **Preparations for Classroom Observations Underway**

Announcements went out this week seeking paid faculty volunteers to participate in over 200 classroom observations this fall to assist us in determining, for reaffirmation of accreditation purposes, whether we are "giving a picture of the instructional program and validating that students are successful learners".

(WASC Focus on Learning Manual, 2006). Selected faculty will receive training in classroom observations strategies and view classes beginning in mid- October.

### **Student and Employee Survey Results are Ready**

As you may recall, the District Office of Institutional Research and Planning conducted randomly selected surveys concerning Institutional effectiveness for the purpose of informing the self study concerning important aspects of SDCE. These results may be viewed on the District website on the research office page.

### **Progress on the Self Study Document**

Here, for your information is the status of the five chapters and the appendix of the Reaffirmation of Accreditation Self Study;

Preface --draft 2 is ready.

Chapter 1--Community and Student Profile—working draft up on Self Study Website; stakeholders reviewed a draft during the 2009Convocation.

Chapter 2, Student Learning Outcomes—the first draft has been submitted.

Chapter 3, Progress Report of the 2007 Action Plan items—the first draft of this chapter was ready as of end of August 2009. Second draft is in progress.

Chapter 4, the self study—Focus and Home groups met during convocation and are to start writing their chapters based on the information collected from the various home groups.

Chapter 5, the new action plan. Work will begin on this as soon as information from the focus groups and others is made available.

Appendix, this is in progress as well as is the eEvidence box containing evidence.

We are planning to have a working draft of the entire document all of this in the fall and a final draft no later than the winter break 2009.

### **Co-Chairs to Attend the Third WASC Training in September.**

The Reaffirmation of Accreditation Co-Chairs will attend the third WASC training for institutions conducting self studies in preparation for onsite visits in the fall of 2010 on September 17 2009 in San Diego. This all day workshop is the third in the series and is for the purpose of aligning SDCE accreditation efforts in terms of the recommended WASC time line for similar activities.