

As stated in the Self-Study Manual for the ACCJC Standards Adopted June 2002, a comprehensive self study is required every six years following initial accreditation. Self study is part of a three-part process of accrediting an institution. This process includes a self appraisal, an on-site visit by a team of peers, and a decision on the accredited status of the college by the Commission.

When the self study document is submitted to the Commission, it will include a certification page bearing the signatures of institutional leaders and attesting to broad participation in self appraisal and preparation of the Self Study Report. A major goal of the self study is to provide evidence of institutional effectiveness and compliance with the Commission standards.

Students, faculty, administrators and support staff have been involved in the self study process since it began on Flex Day in August 2003. Currently, two major accreditation events are in progress. First, student, faculty and staff surveys have been distributed to the appropriate persons for completion. The purpose of these surveys is to assess the perceptions of the college community regarding college policies and procedures. The Tri-Chairs and the Standard Chairs developed the surveys, which were further refined by the

Instructional Services Council. Surveys are to be returned by May 28 for compilation of results. The findings will be shared with the college community. In addition, the survey results will be incorporated into the Self Study Report.

Second, the review of the first draft has been completed and standard committee members are actively revising it utilizing the feedback provided by the Tri-Chairs for the next deadline-May 24. The Tri-Chairs have emphasized the importance of each subcommittee providing documentation with their second draft. The Tri-Chairs and the Standard Chairs will review and revise the second draft during the summer. A third draft will be presented to the faculty and standard committee members on Flex/Duty Days for review and another revision.

West Hills College Coalinga is still awaiting final word from the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community Colleges (ACCJC) regarding the accreditation visit dates and the assigned Accreditation Chair. The dates are anticipated to occur in March 2004. Faye Mendenhall, the Accreditation Liaison Officer, is in contact with Barbara Beno, the Executive Director, regarding these issues.

