

During October, the tri-chairs and standard chairs have spent many hours reviewing and editing the self study report. This process included reading the entire document aloud, correcting grammatical errors, and changing sentence structure where appropriate to ensure consistency and ease of reading.

The extensive dialogue that took place during the self study process supported the success of WHCC's self-reflection on its progress toward becoming an independent college with one attendance center. The following strengths were identified in the self study:

- ◇ Every assertion provides documentation.
- ◇ Extensive data is incorporated.
- ◇ College/district functions are clearly delineated.
- ◇ College autonomy is apparent.
- ◇ Collaborative, shared-governance decision-making is documented.
- ◇ A comprehensive and systematic integration of planning processes is demonstrated.
- ◇ The college's mission is central to institutional planning and decision-making.
- ◇ Issues raised in the self study are addressed and planning agendas created in response.
- ◇ WHCC has maximized student access to courses through the use of technology.
- ◇ Since the last accreditation visit, WHCC has increased its percentage of Hispanic employees to more closely resemble the student population.

In addition, the following weaknesses were identified:

- ◇ The self study survey indicates that large numbers of students, faculty, administrators, and staff (20-50% depending upon the question) are unaware of the excellent services that WHCC provides its constituents.
- ◇ The survey respondents were not representative of the total population of students, faculty, administrators, and staff; consequently, results are skewed and invalid.
- ◇ Learning resources is deficient in its collections and staffing at both Coalinga and NDC.
- ◇ Increased difficulty is being experienced in finding part-time faculty; consequently, some courses listed in the catalog (i.e. sociology, geology) cannot be taught.
- ◇ Insufficient funding is provided to support maintenance and operations.

In the self study, WHCC formally recognizes areas of concern as planning agendas that are listed at the end of each substandard. These agendas represent the direction that WHCC will take to address the specific issues raised in the various self evaluation sections discussed in each substandard of the self study. These agendas generally involve four themes: planning, evaluation, staffing, and student learning outcomes.