

The Accreditation Review



Mission: Accreditation
Destination: 2023
Path to Possible

WELCOME!

March 2021, volume 1, issue 5

Theodore Roosevelt once said, “the more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future” (1911). More than one hundred years later this sentiment still holds true. March's *Accreditation Review* is focused on SCC's accreditation history and how that impacts our preparations for our comprehensive evaluation in 2023.

President's Perspective

Southeast Community College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which strives to fulfill its mission of “assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” HLC seeks to help member institutions provide the highest quality learning experience by establishing criteria related to mission, integrity, teaching and learning, institutional effectiveness, and resources and planning. SCC was first accredited as one institution of higher education in 1982. Since that time, SCC was on “monitoring” status the next 25 years for various reasons. Monitoring is recommended when a review team identifies an opportunity for improvement in relation to one or more of HLC's criteria. In 2017, SCC was removed from monitoring and met all Criteria as a part of its Assurance Review. This was an extremely encouraging outcome that was reflective of a proactive and positive approach to accreditation. I view **HLC as a vital partner in helping SCC pursue its vision, mission, and strategic goals, including our climate goal 9.6.** One of the key components of 9.6 is transparency, which we define as “accurate communication of information that is interpreted as intended.” In developing our Assurance Review Report, the College identified areas where we were out of compliance with elements of the criteria. We clearly articulated these opportunities for improvement and provided detailed corrective actions.

HLC commended the College for its transparency and its many transformational changes, including the addressing of accreditation compliance issues. We entered into an agreement with HLC to continue to pursue our corrective action plans in preparation for our comprehensive review in 2023. **SCC and HLC now have a shared vision** of creating the highest quality learning experience for our students.

As an institution of higher education, **we promote resiliency by continually holding our students accountable for demonstrating mastery of complex concepts and technical skills.** Similarly, HLC holds institutions accountable for effectively fulfilling their vision, mission, and strategic goals. **SCC has demonstrated tremendous resiliency in replacing a long history of accreditation challenges with a vibrant partnership with HLC** that embraces transparency, integrity, data-informed decision making, collaboration, and accountability. As President of SCC, I am fully committed to this unique and dynamic partnership with HLC, and I look forward to the many institutional benefits associated with resolute commitment to accreditation.



Need to Know Nook

Check out SCC's new accreditation website: <https://www.sccaccreditation.com/>. This month please navigate to the "More" section to read about SCC's accreditation history.

Accreditation Passport

As a reminder, the Accreditation Passport program is designed to help the College community learn about the accreditation process, assist in gathering evidence, and prepare for the site visit. Each month there will be individual and group challenges that are accessible on Canvas.

Thank you to the numerous employees who participated in February's Passport challenge! SCC's talented Institutional Research Office created an interactive dashboard to track completed passport challenges. **Check out your own passport at:** <https://www.sccaccreditation.com/passport>.

Congratulations to February's Passport Challenge winners: Heather Stauffer, Michael Harrison, and Erin Hussey. And a special thanks to all who sent a thank you note (the "extra credit" opportunity) to our fantastic Accreditation Steering Team! **Tracie Klosterman and Rachel Hruza are the "extra credit" winners for both sending multiple thank you notes to individual Steering Team members.** Thank you for taking a moment in your busy day to recognize others for their hard work. Watch your mailbox for a prize; and a special thanks to all who participated in the fun!

March's Passport challenge is to view one of Dr. Illich's recent President's Videos to learn more about SCC's plans for the upcoming comprehensive evaluation or Mission: Accreditation, Destination 2023!

It's easy to access the Accreditation Passport monthly challenge:

- Go to <https://www.sccaccreditation.com/passport>
- Click "Begin the Challenge" and you will be redirected to the Canvas course
- Complete the challenge!



Shawna's Shout Outs!

Every month Shawna's Shout Outs will include recognition of an individual or team of employees who have gone above and beyond! **This month's Shout Out goes to one of SCC's most positive, people-centered employees - Robin Moore.** Robin has worked at SCC since 1984 and has made a big difference in many employees lives across the College over the last 36 years. Robin worked in various Student Affairs positions until 2013, when she transitioned in the College's first Administrative Director of Institutional Research. Robin's institutional knowledge and leadership have supported the College through several major institutional recordkeeping projects, including the most recent conversion to the semester calendar.

In addition to her institutional research responsibilities, Robin is frequently called upon to help recall not only past decisions made, but also lessons learned; and she generously shares her time with anyone who reaches out. Her people-centered approach to her work helps SCC reflect on the past, so that we can continue to strengthen our preparations for the future. Robin has worked on several accreditation-related projects including serving on the steering team, supporting the federal compliance report, and gathering enrollment and completion data to HLC on an annual basis! **Thank you, Robin, for your hard work and commitment to SCC's accreditation.**

Are you enjoying the monthly newsletters and passport challenges and want to get involved in additional ways? **Stay tuned next month for a new opportunity to get involved in SCC's Mission: Accreditation!**

Questions about SCC's accreditation? Please email accreditation@southeast.edu or sherwick@southeast.edu.

Save the Date!

SCC recently received notice from the Higher Learning Commission that our 10-year comprehensive evaluation will be in April 2023! Please save the date for April 24-25, 2023!

We have a lot of work to do together over the next 2 years to prepare and there will be many opportunities for each of us to get involved.

