



# Reaccreditation

Volume 1, No.3

August, 2008

*Endless Possibilities*

## From the Leadership Team...

As commonly encountered with any journey of this magnitude, the College has experienced a few setbacks which have required a reorganization of efforts in regards to preparing for the HLC visit. The untimely death of our beloved English Professor Mary Coffman in May 2008 left us without an editor for the self-study, and the resignation of our Director of Institutional Effectiveness in July 2008 left us without a self-study coordinator. Our search for an editor has led us to Martha Kay, a retired Liberal Arts professor, local author, and editor of our 1999 self-study. With the tremendous amount of responsibility that goes into the self-study coordinator's role, and with only eight months before the HLC visit, finding an individual to oversee the entire process is not feasible. It has been decided to divide up the self-study coordinator duties among tri-chairs: Dr. Wendy Brown who will focus on meetings and organization, Dr. Penny McConnell who will focus on writing the document, and Maggie Hoover who will focus on collecting and documenting resources and formatting the final copy of the document. Dave Kietzmann will serve as the advisor to the team.



Maggie Hoover, Dr. Penny McConnell, Dr. Wendy Brown,  
Dave Kietzmann

## The Criteria for Accreditation

### Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity

Dr. Penny McConnell, Chair  
Alan Thompson, Vice-Chair

### Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future

Janet Redenbaugh, Chair  
Debbie Knight, Vice-Chair

### Criterion 3: Student Learning and Effective Teaching

Jane Brown, Chair  
Brian Fink, Vice-Chair

### Criterion 4: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

Al Bello, Chair  
Carla Boyd, Vice-Chair

### Criterion 5: Engagement and Service

Dr. Wendy Brown, Chair  
Bruce Rape, Vice-Chair

## Calendar of Events

### August 14, 2008

DACC Fall In-service HLC Session  
8:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Bremer Theatre

### January 7, 2009

DACC Spring in-service HLC Session  
9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Bremer Theatre

### April 27-29, 2009

HLC Accreditation Team Visit to DACC

[www.dacc.edu/selfstudy](http://www.dacc.edu/selfstudy)

# Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 112th Annual Meeting Highlights Chicago - April 2008

As an institution DACC could look at the Higher Learning Commission as the entity that just gives the College rules and regulations that it must follow if it wants to continue to be accredited and eligible for Title IV funding. "Assess student learning," the HLC commands. "Monitor institutional effectiveness," it orders. "Be transparent," it dictates. Attending the Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission has provided attendees the opportunity to see that the HLC is not an egotistical organization trying to tell DACC what to do. It is an intermediary between DACC and its constituents, between DACC and its elected officials in Washington, D.C., between DACC and the larger world, letting the College know what it needs to do if it is to remain viable and competitive in the coming years.

Those attending the Annual Meeting in Chicago April 17-21, 2008, had the pleasure to hear two outstanding keynote speakers. On Monday, Martha Lumkin, president, chief executive officer and member of the board of directors of the Lumina Foundation for Education, spoke. Her address was titled *Facing the Future: Facts Are Friendly*. And just what are the facts? U.S. institutions of higher education are ranked lower than institutions from other countries; the cost of post-secondary education is higher in the United States than in the rest of the world; the value added of higher education in the United States is lower than in other countries; and policymakers and constituents aren't sure what higher education is really doing. At a time when the United States needs to get millions more through college each year, it is unclear how, or even if, institutions of higher education are doing this. They are not transparent. According to Lumkin, the changes made by accrediting bodies have the capacity to help institutions show just what they are doing and to reposition higher education in the United States and the world.

On Tuesday, April 15, those attending the Annual Meeting heard George Kuh, Chancellor's Professor of Higher Education at Indiana University and director of the Center for Postsecondary Research, the home of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE is the four-year equivalent of CCSSE, which

DACC administers. Kuh's address was entitled *Promises and Pitfalls of Institutional Transparency: First Lessons Learned*. Kuh maintained that public reporting about student and institutional performance is long overdue. Higher education needs to focus on educationally meaningful indicators of effectiveness, including: course retention, transfer success, subsequent course success, degree and certificate completion, employment, and capacity for lifelong learning. Kuh said institutions should focus on high impact activities, such as first-year experiences, writing intensive courses, capstone courses, internships, service learning, and learning communities. He also identified a challenge that is rampant throughout higher education, not just DACC. He referred to it as the *tsunami of data* engulfing everyone in the world of post-secondary education. The challenge is to work through the volumes of data gathered and select and use meaningful data to effect meaningful change.

Now that the self-study teams have worked through the criteria laid out by the Higher Learning Commission, it is evident that DACC is well aware of the "facts" identified by Lumkin and already focuses on the measures and activities outlined by Kuh. It is also evident that DACC collects a wealth of data, but it doesn't always use that data as effectively as it would like to show just exactly what it is doing or to improve. With the migration from Legacy to Datatel/Colleague, DACC has positioned itself well to have greater access to meaningful data. With the results of its self-study in hand, the College has a good sense of what data it needs to focus on if it is to continue to be viable and competitive in the years to come.

[www.dacc.edu/selfstudy](http://www.dacc.edu/selfstudy)

## Reaccreditation Self Study 2009 Danville Area Community College

### Website

[www.dacc.edu/selfstudy](http://www.dacc.edu/selfstudy)

### Newsletter Team

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