2009 - 2012

Shaping Our Future

through the

Academic Quality Improvement Program

The Mission of Mid-Plains Community College is to provide quality educational opportunities for lifelong student learning.

Even though it is challenging to anticipate what the future holds, it is imperative to plan for it. Setting a visionary and measurable course of action for an organization has substantial and long-lasting impact on people, programs, facilities, technology, services, budgets, and processes.

The most important part of MPCC's comprehensive plan is to fulfill our mission to provide quality educational opportunities for lifelong student learning. Therefore, the highest priorities at Mid-Plains Community College are teaching, learning and student support.

A new form of accreditation, which is founded on the principles of continuous quality improvement, has been adopted by the Board of Governors to ensure that the College is sustaining a course of educational excellence. Even though the availability of financial resources continues to be a challenge, the College continues to be innovative and provide a high quality college experience for students.

In closing, comprehensive planning takes considerable time and energy. However, without proper planning, the mission of an organization will not be adequately achieved. The comprehensive plan may not be clearly visible as it makes its way into the fabric of College operations. However, the results of a well-designed and executed comprehensive plan becomes more apparent as the college continues to improve its quality and shapes its future.

Be assured that our seven campuses and over 35 educational sites in the Mid-Plains Community College service area are well-positioned to meet the higher education needs of our communities.

We welcome you to experience your vibrant and innovative community college!
Sincerely,

Michael Chipps, Ph.D.
College President

AQIP Categories and Initiatives for 2009 - 2012

1. **Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs:** Examines how the institution works actively to understand student and other stakeholder needs. It examines institutional processes and systems related to student and stakeholder identification; student and stakeholder requirements; analysis of student and stakeholder needs; relationship building with students and stakeholders; complaint collection, analysis, and resolution, determining satisfaction of students and stakeholders, measures, analysis of results, and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
   a. **Examine Student Satisfaction/Evaluations and Integrate in Decision Making**
   b. **Implement an Employee/Student/Stakeholder Feedback System**
   c. **Expand Relationships with High Schools**

2. **Helping Students Learn:** Identifies the shared purpose of all higher education organizations, and is accordingly the pivot of any institutional analysis. This category focuses on the teaching-learning process within a formal instructional context, yet also addresses how the entire institution contributes to helping students learn and overall student development.It examines the institution's processes and systems related to learning objectives; mission-driven student learning and development; intellectual climate, academic programs and courses; student preparation; key issues such as technology and diversity; program and course delivery; faculty and staff roles; teaching and learning effectiveness; course sequencing and scheduling; learning and co-curricular support; student assessment;measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
   a. **Match Program Standards to Industry Needs**
   b. **Integrate 21st Century Skills Training Across Programs**
   c. **Provide Clean, Attractive, Modern Facilities**

3. **Leading and Communicating:** Addresses how the institution's leadership and communication structures, networks, and processes guide in setting directions, making decisions, seeking future opportunities, and building and sustaining a learning environment. It examines the institution's processes and systems related to leading activities; communicating activities; alignment of leadership system practices; institutional values and expectations; direction setting; future opportunity seeking; decision making; use of data; leadership development and sharing; succession planning; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
   a. **Improve Internal Customer Service**
   b. **Increase Shared Leadership for Decision Making**
   c. **Achieve Outcome Driven Meetings**

4. **Valuing People:** Explores the institution's commitment to the development of faculty, staff, and administrators since the efforts of all are required for institutional success. It examines the institution's processes and systems related to work and job environment; work needs; training initiatives; job competencies and characteristics; recruitment, hiring, and retention practices; work processes and activities; training and development; personnel evaluation; recognition, reward, compensation and benefits; motivation factors; satisfaction, health, safety, and well-being; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
   a. **Develop a Plan to Improve Morale and Job Satisfaction**
   b. **Revise Procedures to be Empowering Versus Restricting**
   c. **Improve Emergency Notification System and Emergency Preparedness**

5. **Supporting Institutional Operations:** Addresses the variety of institutional support processes that help to provide an environment in which learning can thrive. It examines the institution's processes and systems related to student support; administrative support; identification of needs; contribution to student learning and accomplishing other distinctive objectives; day-to-day operations; use of data; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
     a. **Complete Funding for New Buildings**
     b. **Increase Grant Activity**
     c. **Improve External Customer Service**

6. **Measuring Effectiveness:** Examines how the institution collects, analyzes, and uses information to manage itself and to drive performance improvement. It examines the institution's processes and systems related to collection, storage, management, and use of information and data – at the institutional and departmental/unit levels; institutional measures of effectiveness; information and data alignment with institutional needs and directions; comparative information and data; analysis of information and data; effectiveness of information systems and processes; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
     a. **Student Retention**
     b. **Job Placement**
     c. **Enrollment**

7. **Planning and Continuous Improvement:** Examines the institution's planning processes and how strategies and action plans are helping the institution achieve its mission and values. It examines the processes and systems related to institutional vision; planning; strategies and action plans; coordination and alignment of strategies and action plans; measures and performance projections; resource needs; faculty, staff, and administrator capabilities; measures; analysis of performance projections and results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
     a. **Collect Information and Complete Systems Portfolio**
     b. **Continually Improve AQIP Processes to Ensure Accreditatio**n

8. **Building Collaborative Relationships:** Examines institutional relationships – current and potential – to analyze how they contribute to the institution's accomplishing its mission. It examines processes and systems related to identification of key internal and external collaborative relationships; alignment of key collaborative relationships; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
     a. **Further Engage the Community in Collaboration**
     b. **Grow Additional Business Partnerships**
     c. **Use Technology to Further Collaboration**

9. **Accomplishes Other Distinctive Objectives:** Addresses the processes that contribute to the achievement of the institution's major objectives that complement student learning and fulfill other portions of the mission. It examines the institution's processes and systems related to identification of other distinctive objectives; measures; analysis of results; and efforts to continuously improve these areas.
     a. **Increase Awareness and Engage in Globalization and Diversity**
     b. **Continue to Move Forward as a Regional Leader through Innovative Initiatives**

What is the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP)?

AQIP is a process in which a college is able to continually demonstrate that it meets accreditation standards through action projects designed to improve institutional quality and performance.

Why is MPCC involved in AQIP?

The long-standing and traditional accreditation process requires that colleges spend about two years preparing for continued accreditation. AQIP provides an alternative process for colleges and universities to be accredited.

AQIP is a continuous process for maintaining accreditation by identifying areas of needed improvement and developing action plans to make those improvements. By design, AQIP provides a method and process for continuous quality improvement.

The MPCC Board of Governors has made AQIP a priority by adopting it as the accreditation standard for the College. This process will enable the College to prepare for and embrace the 21st Century needs of our students.

How is AQIP structured?

The Higher Learning Commission serves about 1,000 colleges and universities. MPCC is privileged to become one of about 200 institutions who have been permitted to participate in the Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). The MPCC Board of Governors also decided to align the AQIP criteria with the College's comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive plan is now embedded into the nine AQIP criteria. Each of the nine criteria have designated areas of improvement, which were identified by the college community and approved by the Board of Governors. During the next three years, Action Project Teams will be formed around each of these areas of improvement and will be assigned to research, design, and implement improved processes. The teams will utilize an "Action Project Process Guide" to assist them with designing and implementing Action Projects. This continuous improvement model will involve the college community in creating and promoting a 'culture of quality'.

For more information, we welcome you to visit the Mid-Plains Community College Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) website at mpcc.edu.

Mid-Plains Community College Locations

www.mpcc.edu

McCook Community College
1205 East Third Street
McCook, NE 69001

North Platte Community College
North Campus
1101 Halligan Drive
North Platte, NE 69101

North Platte Community College
South Campus
601 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101

Broken Bow Extended Campus
Broken Bow Public Library
626 South D Street
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Imperial Extended Campus
1324 Broadway Street
Imperial, NE 69033

Ogallala Extended Campus
213 North Spruce Street
Ogallala, NE 69153

Valentine Extended Campus
113 North Hall
Valentine, NE 69201