

Brief introduction to Standard One EPC 11/17/09

STANDARD ONE in the new accreditation process requires that we

- articulate our mission statement
- identify core themes* that manifest essential elements of that mission
- identify an acceptable threshold or extent to which we fulfill our mission
- establish objectives for each core theme
- identify meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement that form the basis for evaluating our effectiveness as an institution

*A core theme is a manifestation of a fundamental aspect of institutional mission with an overarching common purpose that guides planning for program and services, development of capacity, and application of resources to fulfill that aspect of the mission.

Examples include, but are not limited to Developmental education; workforce preparation; lower division transfer education; student life; personal enrichment and continuing education.

Examples of things that could be themes:

- 1) Access and student success/transition for the underprepared
- 2) Meeting workforce needs for entry and ongoing training
- 3) Providing strong, seamless transfer education toward a baccalaureate degree
- 4) Enriching the whole student and promoting life success through student organizations, student services, a robust general education component, co-curricular activities and student clubs
- 5) Enriching the community by providing self-improvement courses as well as accessible cultural, civic, and international activities and classes

Example of objectives of core theme:

Our students will benefit from a teaching and learning environment that builds student success.

Examples of indicators of achievement:

- Course to course retention
- Year to year retention
- Assessment of student learning outcomes
- Some key elements of CCSSE
- Degree/certificate completion rates
- Transfer rates
- Etc.....

Advantages to the New Accreditation System:

- Incorporates Institutional Effectiveness activities into ongoing accreditation activities in a natural way
- Enables the college to identify the core work it does and the key indicators that we monitor on a continual basis

We will begin work on identifying core themes and indicators later this year so that we can complete our first report (Standard one only) to NWCCU by Spring 2011.