



CENTRAL OREGON
community college



Conclusion

CONCLUSION

COCC has transitioned to the new NWCCU standards and accreditation framework in an accelerated timeline. This process has been challenging, but the outcomes have been positive for COCC and, by implication, for the students and communities the institution serves. Since submission of Chapter One in spring 2011, the Accreditation Coordinating Team (ACT) has revised this key chapter several times, resulting in the current version of this document. The Board, ACT, and other key leadership groups have helped to refine Board Goals, creating a strong connection between these goals and the core themes. The process has helped push and guide the College in strengthening the measurability, appropriateness, and specificity of success indicators. The College recognizes this will be a continuing process: refining our goals, clarifying their linkage with core themes, building a clear assessment and accountability framework, and further developing the connection between outcome assessment and institutional decisions.

Attention to results—especially student success outcomes and data-based decision making—is not solely driven by the accreditation process. Using evidence to drive College decisions is a clear Board and institutional commitment, consistent with broader national priorities and focused state mandates. COCC’s planning, assessment, program, service, and budget decisions will need to be coordinated and consistent across these various areas.

While recognizing COCC’s progress and success with assessment and outcome analysis, the institution understands further improvement is possible and needed in these areas. Current budget development for 2012-13 and beyond is highlighting priorities and funding strategies to help us meet several goals: (1) expand information technology resources and infrastructure; (2) expand institutional research capacity; (3) strengthen the link between institutional research and grant development, instructional programming, and support services; and (4) strengthen user support for decision-making, planning, and outcome processes. As mentioned in Chapter Three, the College is in the midst of an eighteen-month Strategic Planning process, which will help refine goals and systems and develop some of the linkages described above.

Central Oregon Community College is a dynamic, collaborative, adaptive, and financially stable institution highly valued by its community. Our self-assessment finds that COCC is achieving its mission and is sustainable.

While COCC “clears the bar” relative to mission fulfillment, we also recognize that our internal expectation of excellence calls for the institution to continually improve. Underlying the Board goals are several key questions and challenges, many of which are tied to the state and national focus on student success, the “completion agenda,” and institutional effectiveness. Questions related to these priorities include:

- What can be done to improve the success of students at the lower levels of academic skill and college preparation? How can COCC be a “best performing institution” in these areas? How can we shorten the time it takes for these students to achieve their academic goals?
- What can be done to increase the percentage of students who obtain degrees and certificates within a reasonable time? What factors can ensure and accelerate their success? What support

- services are most critical to their success?
- How do we best support faculty and staff as continuous learners so they are able to best serve students and community?
 - From the vast array of lifelong learning opportunities, which are most critical for Central Oregonians, and how can these be delivered in a cost-effective manner?
 - With COCC now operating at four geographic sites, how does the College ensure broad opportunity and student success irrespective of location?
 - Given Central Oregon's distance from metropolitan areas, how does COCC work with its current and future university partners to expand cost-effective, accessible four-year degree opportunities?
 - How can COCC be responsive to the needs of local business and industry?

We see these key questions as closely entwined with our core themes and the NWCCU accreditation process. We look forward to the continued evolution of our internal planning and assessment practices as we serve our students and community.