

# Have You Heard About the HLC Accreditation Visit?

## What is HLC Accreditation and why is it important?

Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) demonstrates an institution's commitment to sustaining a high level of quality and accountability to students and the larger community. The accreditation process can play a critical role in stimulating consideration of key issues and informing the campus communities about strengths and challenges, opportunities for change, and possibilities for improvement. It can help the institution identify ways to more effectively achieve its mission. Additionally:

- Accredited institutions are eligible to apply for federal grants, loans, and other federal funds, including research funds.
- Students attending accredited institutions are eligible for federal (and in some instances state) grants and loans.
- Only students who attended accredited institutions are eligible to take state licensure examinations in many professional fields.
- Students attending accredited institutions can transfer credits to other accredited institutions.
- Employers who offer tuition assistance are more likely to reimburse their employees for courses taken at an accredited institution.

## What Criteria Does the HLC Use in Accrediting Colleges?

The HLC currently uses five criteria to determine if an institution of higher education is to receive accreditation. These five criteria address:

### Mission

Integrity: Ethical & Responsible Conduct

Teaching & Learning:  
Quality, Resources, & Support

Teaching & Learning:  
Evaluation & Improvement

Resource, Planning &  
Institutional Effectiveness

The accreditation criteria and core components can be viewed by visiting the IECC Open Pathway Accreditation website at:

[www.iecc.edu/hlc](http://www.iecc.edu/hlc)

## Where Do You Fit into the Accreditation Process?

Each of us has a very important role to play in the accreditation process. Students will have the opportunity to meet with the review team in open forums on campus. Review team members may also engage in informal conversations as they encounter students in the Union, Library, or across campus. If you have the opportunity to visit with a review team member, be ready to share:

- Your perceptions and experiences at an IECC College (FCC, LTC, OCC or WVC).
- How the college lives up to its mission *to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our communities.*
- What being a student at an IECC College has meant for you.



# HLC Accreditation Visit ~ April 20-21, 2015