

Accreditation: A Journey to Excellence

Grossmont Adult School

Fall 2014

Here it is: the first Accreditation Newsletter of the 2014-2015 school year!! At Back to School night, I reported that we have received a six year accreditation with, in addition to our mid-report, a one day visit that will take place in three years. Our committees for the five areas of the Action Plan are well into working on the areas of improvement that we identified during our Self-Study Report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your extra effort last school year with the finalization of the Self-Study report as well as while the visiting committee was here. To say they (the visiting committee) were “impressed” is an understatement. I believe they were overwhelmed with all that we do at Grossmont Adult School. Not only do we offer multiple programs, but we do so really, really well.

I appreciate all of the feedback, questions, and comments from you. It helps me do my job better. I was recently asked about fee based teachers and their roll in accreditation. As a point of clarification, regardless of WHAT you do, HOW fees are paid or collected, WHERE you teach or work, WHO you are, WHY your program is scheduled or structured differently than others, the overarching fact is this: EVERY student, community member, teacher, and staff member are an equal and important component of accreditation. Period. There are not stratified programs or classes that rank more importantly than the next. Being accredited proves to our community, our students, and others that our programs are quality and meet or exceed a set of standards that are accepted among institutions throughout the US and the world.

Gary, our director, has repeatedly expressed the importance of working together for the benefit of our students. I echo his sentiments here. We can view our organization, in its entirety, as an orchestra. An individual musician can play a piece of music independently and do so quite well regardless of the instrument he is playing. The beauty of the orchestra is when ALL of the instruments perform in unison in one masterful piece for the benefit of those in the audience. So it is with each of us. We are all a part of a group. Students, teachers, clerks, administrators, facility staff, and community members are those who work to achieve our primary goal which is to help our students meet their personal, academic or workplace goals. When we work harmoniously for the greater good of our students, we display a masterful performance like that of a professional orchestra playing a beautifully composed symphony. It is our goal that we as individual performers focus on working together and with the understanding that our personal performance is just as important as that of the person seated next to us. As we work together, being “on the same page”, may we all perform our best each day and uphold the standard and privilege of being an accredited institution as we strive to help students achieve their goals.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please know that you may contact me at jlowens@guhdsd.net. Happy Fall!! You will hear from me again in a few months. I promise!!

Thank you, yet again, for all that you’ve done to ensure our accreditation is current and relevant.

Have a great day!!

Jennifer