



Accreditation Bulletin October 2013

By Jennifer Owens, WASC Chairperson

Hello everyone! I hope the first month of school has been good to you. First and foremost, let me thank everyone for the enthusiasm during my WASC presentation at Back to School night! I really appreciated everyone's active participation in reciting the mission statement and SLOs. Even though it was completely unscripted, you all read in perfect unison. You were fantastic! It was so encouraging to feel everyone's commitment to ensuring our students achieve their personal, academic, and workplace goals.

I hope I was able to adequately express my sincere desire to make this cycle of our accreditation comfortable and productive for all of us. Many of you approached me after the meeting to ask questions and to offer suggestions. I really appreciated the time I had to speak with you. It has been fun getting to know so many of you through this process. I am encouraged and excited to hear that you are talking about WASC, the mission statement, and the SLOs in your classrooms, in your PLC meetings, and dare I say, even during casual conversations.

Gary Schwartzwald, Jeff Meredith, Vicki Gagliardi, and I recently attended a WASC Post-Secondary training session in Downey. We were met with the realization that we have a fair amount of work ahead of us, but it is achievable. For the most part, we are on schedule.

Last December, focus groups were created comprised of a cross section of individuals from many of our program areas and sites. These focus groups began meeting in February to begin gathering information and write part of the Self-Study Report. Since that time, we have completed the portion of the report as a collaborative effort among these stakeholders. We are in the process of finalizing the first few sections of the report and

Listed below is an outline of the report being written by the Leadership Team.

WASC Self-Study School Report

Chapter 1—Institutional, Community, Student Characteristics (Brief summary of programs offered; Student Learner Outcomes)

Chapter 2—Progress Report (Update on previous Action Plan)

Chapter 3

Criterion 1 Mission Statement and SLOs

Criterion 2 Organizational Structure and School Leadership

Criterion 3 Faculty and Staff

Criterion 4 Curriculum

Criterion 5 Instructional Program

Criterion 6 Use of Assessment

Criterion 7 Student Support, Services

Criterion 8 Resource Management

Criterion 9 Community, Connection

Criterion 10 Action Plan for Continual Improvement

Chapter 4—Action Plan

Chapter 5—Glossary

Stakeholder Our stakeholders include students, faculty, staff, administrators, business partners, community members, and anyone connected with our school/program.

identified our strengths and key issues. We are beginning to write the Action Plan of the report. In this section, we will address the key issues that Grossmont Adult School needs to focus on to better serve our

students. One of the key issues we have identified during the self-study process is to have comprehensive data that reflects student success and achievement. This will be an area of focus for us as we write our Action Plan.

As I mentioned at Back to School night, it is my desire and goal to have everyone informed, comfortable, and prepared for the visit. A concern that has been circulating is the topic of evidence. For those of you that have been around awhile you are familiar with the "blue boxes". WASC has changed the way evidence is displayed during the visit. WASC believes that student work should be located where the students are, in the classroom. I mentioned during my presentation, student work can be displayed on the walls, on tabletops, or anywhere your particular classroom situation allows. Do the best that you can with what you have to work with. Be creative. **Ask your students for suggestions.**

This leads me to my next item, student awareness. It is imperative that, prior to the visit, our students be familiarized with what will be happening while the visiting committee is here, March 24-26, 2014 (just in case you missed that at Back to School night). Please talk with your students about the Mission Statement and SLOs. Begin integrating the concepts of both items into your lesson plans, classroom discussions, and anywhere else that you can. Memorizing the Mission Statement and SLOs is not the goal. However, the philosophy behind them should be part of our school and classroom culture. Since our main goal is student success, we need to let the students know their success is our ultimate objective.

Not only with the WASC visit in mind, but as a rule, ask yourself the following question: Where do you see your students in a year? Keep this question in mind as you prepare each day with the ultimate objective to assist our student's achieving their desired goals.

Thank you for your dedication to ensure our accreditation is a success. This is our opportunity to show those who are not familiar with our programs the way we enrich and enhance the lives of our students. If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want an update, please feel free to stop me in the hall or wherever you see me. You can also email me at jlowens@guhsd.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mission Statement

The mission of Grossmont Adult School is to enrich the lives of our community members by providing high quality, affordable, lifelong learning opportunities; fulfilling personal, academic, and workplace goals for an increasingly diverse population.
