



March 1, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Now that the Spring 2017 semester is fully underway, I'd like to update you on the reaccreditation efforts, reflecting on the progress that has already been made and looking forward to the next process.

It is hard for me to believe that I announced that our 10-year comprehensive evaluation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) would be in autumn 2018 and asked Dr. Jackie Parrill and Dr. Lauri White to partner together to lead our reaccreditation efforts over a year ago! Since that time, extensive work has been undertaken to collect evidence that will demonstrate to the Commission that the college meets the required criteria to maintain our accreditation status. Over the past two semesters, Drs. Parrill and White have lead 37 skunkworks sessions involving over 100 faculty, staff, board members, students, and other college constituents. I'm very excited to learn about the number of employees engaged in this effort. I understand a number of our employees have collected all of the Curious George pins from having participated in 8 or more skunkworks sessions! No matter how many pins you've collected, we'd like to have pictures. Jackie shared these two with me and we'd like to have more. **Please take a selfie with your pins and send them to Cheri Russo!** We would also like to have a group pose for a celebratory photo to use in the COTC #1 advertising campaign, wearing their Curious George buttons along with the foam fingers, pennants, and beach balls. **If you have participated in a skunkworks, wear your buttons and please join us on March 20, 2017, in the Warner Center atrium at 11 a.m. for the photo.**



Skunkworks sessions will be continuing throughout the rest of the spring semester. The skunkworks will culminate in the preparation of a written report called the Assurance Argument. Over the summer and into the autumn, Drs. White and Parrill will be compiling all of the information together and preparing the first draft of the Assurance Argument. Next spring, once Drs. Parrill and White have assembled the draft report, it will be sent out to the college community for feedback and edits. We anticipate the report will be finalized and produced in Summer 2018.

The Assurance Argument will be submitted to the peer reviewers in early Fall 2018 and the team will be visiting the College on **November 26-27, 2018!**

The level of participation by so many faculty and staff in support of our reaccreditation efforts is awe-inspiring. Your dedication and support are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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