

# REAFFIRM 2018-2019

## *Be Curious!*

Central Ohio Technical College



Monday, January 04, 2016 9:01 AM

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

The start of a new year has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. Individually, the New Year gives us the opportunity to revisit and recommit to our institutional values. From an organizational perspective, it gives us the opportunity to refocus on our commitment to continuous improvement and institutional effectiveness.

Institutional values reflect and reinforce the desired culture of an organization and are the beliefs and behaviors that embody how an organization and its people are expected to operate. At COTC, we value Honor and Integrity, Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability, Excellence, and Collaboration and Collegiality. I am asking that we all rededicate ourselves to living our institutional values and use them as guidelines for decision-making, prioritizing, and problem-solving. As a member of our College community, you play an important role in shaping the culture and climate of the work environment. I ask that you review the institutional values (<http://www.cotc.edu/Communities/Pages/Institutional-Planning--.aspx>) and consider ways in which you can positively influence change for organizational improvement.

As an institution, accreditation is the ultimate means to assure and improve quality. Many of our academic programs have attained accreditation from their respective professional accrediting agencies. For students, accreditation provides value related to not only judging quality, but also obtaining employment, receiving student aid and transferring credits. To the public, the accreditation process provides value not only through judging quality, but also assuring reliable information about institutions, promoting accountability and identifying successful improvement efforts. Looking forward, COTC will be undergoing its institutional, 10-year comprehensive evaluation with the Higher Learning Commission (COTC's accrediting body) during the 2018-2019 academic year, and we anticipate the actual visit will take place in Autumn 2018. Reaffirmation of accreditation is an extensive and comprehensive process that will touch all aspects and individuals of the institution. By starting our planning now, we will ensure that our college is well positioned for a successful review in 2018.

I have asked Dr. Jackie Parrill, Vice President for Institutional Planning & Human Resources, and Dr. Lauri White, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to partner together to lead our

reaffirmation efforts. Dr. Parrill currently serves as our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) with the Commission and is a member of the HLC Peer Review Corp. In 2008, she successfully lead our reaccreditation efforts and served as Accreditation Planning Coordinator, Self-Study Coordinator, and chaired the Self-Study Steering Committee. Most recently, Dr. Parrill led our mid-cycle evaluation process and visit in December 2014. As our chief academic officer, Dr. White brings experience from serving on HLC reaccreditation teams as well as over 15 years of experience as an accreditation consultant for the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Their planning has already begun with a half day HLC preparation retreat in November to discuss follow up items from the 2014 mid-cycle evaluation, review the status of our academic assessment efforts, discuss the work plan for updating institutional policies, confirm the importance of systematic and regular academic program review, review the status of programmatic accreditations, identify attendees for the HLC Annual Meetings over the next several years, and determine the work plan and structure for the 2018 visit. At this point, we envision that we will be employing a process similar to the skunkworks process that was used during the 2014 mid-cycle evaluation. As our planning efforts in this regard continue, Drs. Parrill and White will be taking a team to the Higher Learning Commission's Annual Meeting in April 2016. Be on the lookout for more information on the process in the coming months. We believe that the 2018 visit will prove to be an opportunity for us to showcase our successes and accomplishments since the comprehensive evaluation conducted in 2008. I look forward to your involvement, feedback, and support throughout this process.

I sincerely hope that your New Year is off to a great start and I thank you for your continued support and loyalty to our College.

Best wishes in the New Year,

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.  
President