

## **AQIP in Under 500 Words**

**AQIP** = Academic Quality Improvement Program

**AQIP** is LLCC's chosen route towards reaffirming our **accreditation** with the Higher Learning Commission. Accreditation is vital to the college because it certifies the quality and transferability of our credits and degrees. As a result, AQIP is of vital importance to LLCC. If the institution and the work of the college are important to you, AQIP is important to you.

The AQIP process is based on continuous documentation and self-evaluation (the Systems Portfolio) and targeted improvement initiatives (Action Projects). AQIP is not limited to any one area of the college; it is institution-wide and will involve every aspect of the college's operations. AQIP is process oriented and seeks to improve outcomes by improving the processes and systems by which they are pursued. The System Portfolio and Action Projects are ongoing activities which interact to inform each other.

**ACTION PROJECTS** are carefully selected initiatives targeting specific areas or processes. Although the scope and duration of projects will vary, their impact should be felt institution wide. Three projects must always be underway and at least one must deal directly with student learning. Action projects give the institution the chance to focus our efforts and resources in areas which offer a particular opportunity to improve.

LLCC's three initial action projects are:

1. New Student Experience: Stage 1 - Designed/Ready for Implementation
  - GOAL: Building on FOE and establishing the first stage directed at issues faced by new students
2. Continuous Quality Improvement: Learning to Make Informed, Systematic Decisions
  - GOAL: Introducing new decision-making tools into college processes in order to make the process more efficient, inclusive and informed by data.
3. Establishing and Assessing an Effective Shared Governance Structure
  - GOAL: Working to implement a revised internal committee structure at the college and evaluating the extent to which it has improved communication, representation and effectiveness.

**STATUS: TEAMS CREATED, PROJECTS UNDERWAY**

**THE SYSTEMS PORTFOLIO** is a comprehensive self-evaluation, documenting the systems and processes at the college. Limited to 100 pages, the report is structured by questions, criteria and categories provided by HLC. The Systems Portfolio is submitted for external review on a fixed schedule. LLCC will submit our first completed document for review in 2013. The Systems Portfolio is not a sales pitch. It is a rigorous, comprehensive self-review. The process will touch every aspect of the college. Reviewer feedback will help shape future directions.

**STATUS: TEAMS CREATED, RESEARCH and EVIDENCE COLLECTION UNDERWAY**

### **The Bottom Line:**

The purpose of these two elements is to improve the institution's ability to fulfill its mission of serving the educational needs of the district. Because every member of the college is important to the success of the institution, AQIP is important to all of you. You are all, in turn, important to the success of the AQIP process.

Whatever jargon it is dressed in, the purpose of AQIP is simple: to document what we do well and help us do what we already do well, better.