What I learned from my Visiting team experience...

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Overview:

- Antelope Valley College Visiting team

10 member team:

- Chair: Current CC President & ACCJC Commissioner (6th visiting team, 3rd as Chair)
- One newly-appointed ACCJC Commissioner
- Another current CC President, w/exp. In SACS
- 5 Faculty members, 4 Administrators, 1 Assistant
- 4 “Rookies” on first visiting team (including me)
Preparation before Visit?

- Done in a hurry – joined team 2 weeks prior.
- Rest of the team completed training Mid-Sept. (5-6 weeks prior to visit).
- Two Homework Assignments:
  1. Overview of Self-study Report & Prior Actions
  2. Team member written report template & pre-visit planning.
- Provided a framework for completing the team report.
Campus visit & Schedule?

- **Monday:**
  - Lunch Mtg. @ Hotel, 12 noon.
  - Informal meet & greet @ Campus.
- **Tuesday:**
  - Interviews & Evidence (writing & more writing...)
  - Team room/Hotel
- **Wednesday:**
  - Evidence & complete drafts of findings/conclusions
  - Assemble final report and draft recommendations.
- **Thursday:**
  - Finalize /Edit final draft report, finalize recommendations
  - Exit Session: 2pm.  Depart campus 2:30pm.
What did I learn?

- C-U-L-T-U-R-E O-F E-V-I-D-E-N-C-E
- The process really is peer-driven.
- Pinpoint areas of concern...habits/recurring patterns rather then the isolated example.
- The College needs to have a robust internal discussion about evidence – what, where, and how we use it.
- DOCUMENTATION ... if it’s not written down, did it happen?
Self-Study Impressions?

- Reasonably well-written, reflected a team approach, linked to evidence, though not perfect...
- Areas of concern:
  - Overstepped in some description of current practice—Particularly Program Review & SLO Assessment.
  - Finding Evidence was challenging: missing in some instances, insufficient in others.
  - Provide electronic version of self-study with in-text hyper-links to the evidence—this is becoming an expectation of many teams.
What can we learn?

- Send more people to serve on teams – there is no better training than this!
- We need to shift our mind-set = from one of compliance “Give them what they want!” to one that takes continuous improvement seriously.
  - Culture of Evidence & Dialogue.

- Read and Follow the ACCJC: Guide to Evaluating Institutions. This is the playbook for the team...