

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 than 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...