



Accreditation 2010

Special Emphasis Committee Members

Alma Mary Anderson (SAMY)

John Beacon

Elonda Ervin

Mark Frederick

Ed Kinley

Linda Maule

Steve Pontius

Nancy Rogers

NCA FACULTY FELLOW ANNOUNCEMENT

Susan Powers and Nancy Rogers, co-coordinators of the NCA Accreditation Self-Study are happy to announce the addition of Dr. Robert Guell as the NCA Faculty Fellow. Dr. Guell has been an active part of

the ISU community since 1991; coordinator of FYP, project manager: Lilly Project to Transform the First Year Experience. He is currently a faculty member with the Department of Economics and the

textbook author of *Economics Issues Today*. Dr. Guell is looking forward to working with the NCA co-coordinators, and the entire campus community to complete a successful self-study.

Criterion Committee Members

Criterion I Members: Anita Adams, Carolyn Burns, Gene Crume, Bob English, Eric Glendening, Steve Hardin, Mary Howard-Hamilton, Harriet Hudson, Jeff McNabb, Joe Sanders, David Skelton, David Wright. Criterion II Members: Liz Brown, Scott Buchanan, Blanche Evans, Diann McKee, Patty McClintock, Connie McLaren, Theresa Ortega, Charlie Potts, SAMY. Criterion III Members: Veanne Anderson, Jay Clarkson, Mebbe Griffy, Bob Guell, Bob Jajcay, Rex Kendall, Debra Knaebel, Tracy McDaniel, Dale Ann O'Neal, Susan Powers, Elliot Robins, Cat Stemmans, Kent Waggoner. Criterion IV Members: Charles Amlaner, Greg Bierly, Jennifer Boothby, Karen Evans, Mark Green, Mary Ellen Linn, Linda Maule, Mike Murphy, Elliot Robins, Martha Reed, Linda Sperry, Guoping Zhang. Criterion V Members: Susan Bonte-Eley, Denise Collins, Veda Gregory, Darlene Hantzis, William Mercier, Valentine Muyumba, Liz O'Laughlin, John Ozmun, Nancy Rogers, Carmen Tillery, Roxanne Torrence, William Wilhelm.

We Need Your Help! NCA Survey At Welcome Picnic!

The NCA Accreditation process is an opportunity for ISU to demonstrate that the university community has been collaboratively discussing and addressing areas of concern identified as part of prior assessment cycles. In an attempt to do this and in response to a campus visit by our NCA liaison, the NCA Steering committee will be delivering a survey that has been designed to obtain key information on and perceptions of campus governance structures, diversity, professional development, and mission. Additionally, the survey will include several questions focused on community engagement and experiential

learning that are intended to serve as benchmarks that will assist with the preparation of the "special emphasis" report. The survey is now complete and will be made available to the entire campus community in early fall electronically. The NCA Steering committee will have several tables and laptops available for faculty and staff to fill out a questionnaire during the 'Welcome Back' Picnic. Please stop by our tables and participate in this important endeavor. Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about this process or the survey, please contact Rebecca Stinnett at extension 8420.

Upcoming Dates

August 14-Sept. 30 NCA Survey available to faculty, staff & students

Sept. 19 Leadership Oversight Committee Meeting
Landsbaum Center

Nov. 10 NCA Retreat with Campus Leaders for Discussion and Planning related to the Special Emphasis

We're on the Web

Come see what's going on with our accreditation process:

<http://nca.indstate.edu>

Why are we doing this Accreditation thing?

What's in it for us?

An **institutional accrediting agency** evaluates an entire educational organization in terms of its mission and the agency's standards or criteria. It accredits the organization as a whole. Besides assessing formal educational activities, it evaluates such things as governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student services, institutional resources, student learning, institutional effectiveness, and relationships with internal and external constituencies. A specialized accrediting body evaluates particular units, schools, or programs within an organization.

Specialized accreditation, also called program accreditation, is often associated with national professional associations, such as those for engineering, medicine, and law, or with specific disciplines, such as business, teacher education, psychology, or social work.

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools was founded in 1895 for the purpose of establishing close relations between the colleges and secondary schools of the region. Throughout its history, the Association has been committed to the improvement of education at all levels through evaluation and accreditation. Today, the Association is a membership organization of colleges and schools in nineteen states

(Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), Department of Defense schools, and the schools and colleges in sovereign U.S. tribal nations within the nineteen states.

ISU's process will employ a five-step comprehensive evaluation process to determine continued accredited status.

- The organization engages in a self-study process for approximately two years and prepares a report of its findings in accordance with Commission expectations.
- The Commission sends an evaluation team of Consultant-Evaluators to conduct a comprehensive visit for continued accreditation and to write a report containing the team's recommendations.
- The documents relating to the comprehensive visit are reviewed by a Readers Panel or, in some situations, a Review Committee.
- The IAC (Institutional Actions Council) takes action on the Readers Panel's recommendation. (If a Review Committee reviewed the visit, the Review Committee takes action.)
- The Board of Trustees validates the work of IAC or a

Review Committee, finalizing the action.

Accreditation by the Commission and by other nationally recognized agencies provides assurance to the public, in particular to prospective students, that an organization has been found to meet the agency's clearly stated requirements and criteria and that there are reasonable grounds for believing that it will continue to meet them.

Accreditation provides both public certification of acceptable institutional quality and an opportunity and incentive for self-improvement in the accredited organization. The Commission reaches the conclusion that a college or university meets the Criteria only after the organization opens itself to outside examination by experienced evaluators familiar with accrediting requirements and with higher education. The process of accreditation provides the accredited organization with an opportunity for critical self-analysis leading to improvement in quality and for consultation and advice from persons from other organizations.

The Commission itself is evaluated by The Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), a national, non-governmental organization that provides recognition of accrediting bodies. The Commission's CHEA recognition

was last confirmed in 2002.

In addition, the United States Department of Education maintains a list of accrediting agencies determined to be "reliable authorities as to the quality of training offered by educational institutions and programs." The list serves as one of the bases for the federal government's determination of institutional eligibility for participation in federally funded programs, including Title IV student financial aid. To appear on the list, an accrediting body must demonstrate its compliance with regulations established in accordance with the Higher Education Act. The Secretary of Education reviews the status of accrediting bodies on the list on a regular schedule. The Commission has been listed by the Secretary of Education (or a predecessor officer) since 1952, when the list was first published. Its most recent renewal of recognition was in 2003.

Information pulled from the *Instructional Accreditation: An Overview*, by the Higher Learning Commission of NCA.

NCA 2010 Contact Information

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