



October 2007

## SACS Report in Final Stages

The 22-member SACS Compliance Committee completed the fact-finding portion of its assignment, which included verifying compliance and making suggestions for improvement. Since then, the committee has written and submitted a first draft to WCJC's Leadership Team. Upon submission of the first draft in December 2006, the committee, chaired by Bryce Kocian, disbanded.

Since that time the Leadership Team, comprised of the president, four vice presidents and several directors, has reviewed the draft report. The Leadership Team worked in subgroups of vice presidents and requested input from external reviewers with expertise in the designated compliance area. One reviewer was a representative from a college that had just undergone the reaffirmation process.

This fall, grammatical and technical editing task forces will review the report. A representative of The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges will also visit WCJC to clarify any issues that may arise with the compliance report, as well as the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). By the close of the semester, the Leadership Team will review any new edits and submit the report for a pilot review by a non-technical reader.

Early in 2008, the WCJC Board of Trustees will review the compliance report. President McCrohan will submit the final report to SACSCOC for the March 15, 2008 deadline. Leigh Ann Collins, division chair for the allied health program, is the SACS Compliance Coordinator.

The compliance report, along with the QEP, is required by SACSCOC to satisfy reaffirmation requirements as part of the process of renewing WCJC's accreditation status.

The compliance report follows a rigorous internal review process in which the SACS Compliance Committee worked with administrative officers, faculty, staff, students, trustees and community members. Together, they examined WCJC's effectiveness in achieving its stated mission, studied the college's current practices, and evaluated those practices against each of SACS Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards as noted in the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*. The purpose of the self-study is to enhance the quality of student learning and improve the quality of programs and services offered.

## QEP Committee Developing Pilot Plan for 'First Year Student Experience'

*Faculty will be asked to weigh in*

The SACS Quality Enhancement Plan Committee is developing a pilot plan for the "First Year Student Experience" topic selected by faculty, staff and students earlier this year. The QEP is one of two mandatory components for reaffirmation of accreditation by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The QEP Committee met with several WCJC counselors as well as the dean of student services in order to learn more about the college's current practices. Based on this research, the QEP Committee is considering potential changes in advising and orientation for first year students. The committee is seeking input on the pilot program from WCJC faculty, staff and students through focus groups and question/answer sessions this fall. The committee will then draft an implementation plan and present it to the Leadership Team for review.

"Get in Gear for a Great 1<sup>st</sup> Year" was submitted as the QEP slogan by Sugar Land Campus Director Robert Wolter. The college's marketing department created a design for the slogan.

For Fall 2007 Convocation, the QEP Committee hosted Terri Manning, Ed.D., associate vice president for institutional research and director of the Center for Applied Research at Central Piedmont Community College in North Carolina. She presented "The Millennial Student" which enlightened WCJC faculty/staff on the newest generation of students. A major challenge for educational institutions is keeping these individuals – born between 1982 and 2002 – challenged and engaged.

Following Manning's presentation, the QEP Marketing Team hosted a tropical-themed luncheon for the college community. Attendees heard updates on the college's reaffirmation efforts and the QEP focus area.

The QEP Committee is chaired by Patricia Rehak. Co-chair is Stephanie Dees.

For more information on the WCJC SACS QEP Committee, please follow the link on the WCJC home page or email the committee at [QEPCommittee@wcjc.edu](mailto:QEPCommittee@wcjc.edu).

