Higher Learning Commission HLC
Peer Reviewers Arrive April 25, 2016

Northern New Mexico College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, (230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604), www.hlcommission.org, 800.621.7440. Northern gained candidacy status in 1975 and full accreditation status in 1982. In 2001, we joined the HLC’s Academic Quality Improvement Program AQIP. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) conducts a Quality Review (CQR) part of our reaffirmation of the accreditation process. The CQR is a visit by “peer reviewers” who engage the college in discussions about its Action Projects and initiative featured in the Systems Portfolio.

Goals of CQR:
- Affirming accuracy of NNMC’s Systems Portfolio
- Reviewing Action Projects
- Addressing NNMC’s response to the Systems Appraisal feedback report
- Assuring continuing organizational quality improvement commitment
- Confirming NNMC’s compliance with accreditation expectations
- Counseling NNMC concerning issues that require immediate attention
- Reviewing and updating the relationship between NNMC and HLC

AQIP Action Projects:
In order to remain aware of the institution’s progress on its quality endeavors and also to serve as a resource to each AQIP institution, the HLC requires institutions to always have in-progress at least three Action Projects.

The HLC’s AQIP Action Project requirement is central to an institution’s success in the program because it compels the institution to develop the structure(s) necessary to organize and oversee a quality initiative.

This process requires broad engagement of faculty and staff in the selection of projects and also through participation on project teams.

Three Current Action Projects
I. Website Unit Webpage Development and Maintenance
II. Strengthening Student Learning Assessment
III. Plan and Prepare for CQR

Know Your Area, Know Your Category

The Systems Portfolios cover the nine (now six) Categories, describing processes, results, and improvement in each system, and shows evidence that continues to meet HLC’s five Criteria for Accreditation.

The Categories are as follows along with some NNMC departments and areas that are discussed in the document.

It is important to know how your area is presented in the document so that you can respond to questions regarding changes and improvements since the document was written.

Category 1: Helping Students Learn
Category 2: Other Distinctive Objectives
Category 3: Understanding Student and Stakeholder Needs
Category 4: Valuing People
Category 5: Leading and Communicating
Category 6: Supporting Institutional Operations
Category 7: Measuring Effectiveness
Category 8: Planning Continuous Improvement
Category 9: Building Collaborative Relationships
NNMC.EDU / Is your website up to date?

The HLC has expressed the importance of having an accurate website. The CQR Committee created a sub-committee to “comb” through the website and identify improvements. Over 140 items were identified but you are the best resource for accomplishing this project. Remember the website is one of our most valuable marketing and recruitment tools.

Please take some time to review the website. You can email your findings to Deborah Trujillo at debra@nnmc.edu or Sandy Krolick at sandyk@nnmc.edu. Items to look for are:

- **Check all links to ensure there are no “broken links”**
- **Have all outdated documents been removed?**
- **Ensure that there are no inaccuracies (titles, staff, statistics, etc.)**
- **Check your forms to make sure they are working properly**
- **Keep a lookout for typos especially in the Directory (names, etc.)**

Other Supporting Materials

The next CQR is scheduled for April 25-27, 2016. The Comprehensive Quality Review is two and one-half days and replaces the Quality Checkup visit.

NNMC has prepared the following materials for the CQR. These documents can be found on the College’s [CQR webpage](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MY5P8KJ).

Additionally, a student survey was given by the HLC in February, 2016 in preparation for the CQR visit. Results are posted on the [CQR page](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MY5P8KJ) as well.