As we conclude the Fall semester, we want to provide another update to the campus on the status of our self-study in preparation for our accreditation visit in Fall 2012—less than a year away! We are still very much on schedule, with second drafts submitted by the self-study teams in mid-November.

Accreditation Co-Chairs Erika Lacro, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Marcia Roberts-Deutsch, Accreditation Liaison Officer, will again review the drafts and provide detailed feedback to the teams at the beginning of the Spring semester.

As noted in the August 2011 newsletter (Volume 3, No. 1), the campus has been engaged in several major efforts that have a direct bearing on our status with reference to accreditation. These have included a significant reorganization of the campus to improve its functions, a campus review of the institutional mission; refining our program review, budget, and planning process; addressing the management of our technology resources; and revision and updating of the General Education requirements for our CTE programs to be in better compliance with accreditation standards. We can now reflect with justifiable satisfaction on having completed or made substantial progress on all of those initiatives—all of which will be documented in our self-study.

While the preparation of the self-study has to date been the work of a relatively small group of volunteers, we will be asking for your input during the Spring semester as our report is completed. We want you to be aware of the following:

- Billie Lueder is designing a PR campaign to make sure the campus is well-informed about accreditation.
- You will be asked to participate in one or more surveys that will help take the pulse of the campus.
- You will also have an opportunity to read a draft of the self-study and provide comments.

As noted earlier, Accreditation is very much evidence-based, so those involved in the major governance committees as well as those engaged in other forms of campus support should remember to document and communicate the work they are doing. Preparing the self-study is a time of intensive focus and activity, but the work we do in maintaining a standard of excellence as an accredited institution is on-going and integral to college life.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS – WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT YEAR AHEAD OF US!