

PNC to Host HLC Visit in 2010-2011

During the 2010-2011 academic year, Purdue North Central will host a comprehensive visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Accreditation Association. This is a routine visit and was specified by our last comprehensive visit in April 2001. The longest time period between such visits is ten years.

Purdue North Central is considered to be fully accredited and in good standing with the Higher Learning Commission at this time. The campus has enjoyed such status since its first accreditation in 1973.

The Higher Learning Commission has the responsibility of providing regional accreditation for the institutions of higher education in our geographic area. There are six such commissions in the country. Institutions need to remain regionally accredited for three reasons. First, the students attending the institution receive credits that are easily transferred to other institutions that are also accredited. Second, our graduates have much easier to access graduate programs at other accredited institutions. Finally, the institution must be regionally accredited to receive federal financial aid.

To prepare for this visit, a Self Study Team has been formed by the Chancellor with Dr. Linda Duttlinger, Director of Accreditation and Assessment as chair. This is Dr. Duttlinger's fourth HLC visit and she is enthusiastic about the opportunity to showcase the campus and continue in its growth. The recently approved Strategic Plan is the cornerstone for the campus and this visit.

The Self Study Team has over thirty members and has representatives from all areas of the campus community including administration, faculty, staff, clerical and student. The Team meets monthly and is currently dividing into sub committees to consider the five HLC criteria. There are two additional committees that are researching information for chapters dealing with the challenges presented by the 2001 HLC Team and the information necessary for the proposal to move the campus from a bachelors' degree granting institution to a masters' degree granting one. Our current masters' degrees are offered under the direction of the main campus.

Visitors are always welcome at the monthly meetings of the Self Study Team. The meetings are held in TECH 109 at 1:00 and are scheduled for October 24, November 21 and December 12. Any comments, concerns or question should be directed to Dr. Duttlinger.