

**Tuesday Tidbits  
March 17, 2009**

***How does the Higher Learning Commission keep track of us between comprehensive visits? A lot can happen in ten years!***

The Higher Learning Commission has an annual report that we fill out and send in every spring. This report collects data and provides the Commission with standardized information from all the member institutions.

***What data does it want?***

We are asked to supply the following data based on our fall semester figures:

- Names and titles of the chief administrators
- Institutional headcount
  - Student enrollment
  - Faculty employment
  - Staff and Administrative employment
- Degrees and certificates offered
- Number and type of degrees awarded
- Campus locations and on-line degree offerings
- Dual credit offerings
- Financial data is also sought

This data is pulled from our IPEDS data. IPEDS data is data required by the federal government and is reported based on fall semester statistics. The government has mandated certain definitions of categories – such as this commonly asked question:

Q. How many credit hours must a student be enrolled in to be considered full time?

A. The federal definition is twelve credit hours.

This data is sent to the Commission electronically.

***Other than an annual report, are there any other ways the Commission interacts with its member institutions?***

There are several. The Commission holds an annual meeting every spring in Chicago. This year it is from April 18 to the 21. Over 4,000 individuals representing the many member institutions in 19 states will attend. There are over 1,000 institutions the Higher

Learning Commission. They represent all kinds of institutions – public, private, proprietary, on-line, technical, community college, tribal, vocational, research one and every other category you can think of. At the conference are numerous presentations on the various aspects of the accreditation process, a large exhibit hall, a display hall of self studies from institutions that recently hosted a successful visit and numerous opportunities to meet with the Commission staff.

The Commission has other ways of communicating with the institutions. E-mail announcements and a full web presence gives us continual updated information. We are required to publish the Commissions address and our affiliation status with the HLC in our catalogs and have it available on-line with our web page. This allows anyone with a concern about our status to contact the HLC directly if they so chose.

***Will PNC have representatives attending the annual meeting this year?***

Yes, the following individuals are planning on attending:

Karen Schmid

Phil Jankowski

Linda Duttlinger

Deb Pratt

Dave Pratt

Cindy Roberts

Professor Roberts is making a presentation during the conference.

***When is the visit?***

761 days from today – March 17, 2009

On St. Patrick's Day ...we say HURRAY!!

In 761 ... we'll say WELL DONE!!

*Tuesday Tidbits* is a way to provide information about the upcoming accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission to the Purdue North Central Campus. Since the visiting team is interested in ALL aspects of the campus and its operation, this is being sent to all employees. If you have any questions about the accreditation process, or ideas for future Tidbits, please let me know.

Thanks!

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