

Tuesday Tidbits
Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Is this back again?

Yes! *Tuesday Tidbits* is supposed to come out every Tuesday and give some fast answers to questions you didn't even know you had about the up and coming visit from the Higher Learning Commission. This started last spring and then aestivated during the summer. Since last week was a bit hectic, I waited until this week to restart this weekly offering.

Why does everyone get this? Isn't the HLC visit just for the administration and faculty?

The visit from the Higher Learning Commission will be for the WHOLE campus. There will be open meetings by the visiting team for different campus groups – students, faculty, AP staff, clerical and service staff etc. Since there will probably be six team members here and they will be here for three days, you will see them around and it's better if everyone knows what's going on. *Tuesday Tidbits* is one way to publicize the visit and provide information for all concerned.

Why are they visiting us? Is PNC in trouble with its accreditation?

This is a routine comprehensive visit that happens every eight to ten years. I am happy to say that PNC is fully accredited with the Higher Learning Commission and is in good standing with that organization. This visit is part of the duties and responsibilities of being accredited.

Why are we accredited anyway? If we start planning so far in advance that sounds like a whole lot of work.

Good question! Yes, it is a whole lot of work by a whole lot of people! But, there are three main reasons we need to stay accredited by this regional accrediting body.

The credits our students earn by passing our classes will transfer to other institutions if we are accredited.

Our graduates will have a better chance of being accepted into graduate schools if we are accredited.

If we are not accredited, our students are not eligible for federally funded financial aid.

Sounds like three pretty good reasons.

The last answer called HLC a “regional” accrediting body. Are there others?

Yes. The US has six regional accrediting bodies based, more or less, on geography. There are the New England states, Middle States, Southern, Western and Far Western regional accrediting bodies. The interesting thing about the North Central Association (NCA) which is the parent organization for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is that they also have authority over Arizona and New Mexico in the 19 state group. These states joined when they were still Indian territories. NCA has been around for a long time. Just to complete this answer, there is another commission in NCA. It is the Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. This commission accredits elementary, secondary and Department of Defense schools among many others.

There are also accrediting bodies for different academic areas that PNC belongs to. There are accrediting bodies for Nursing, Technology and Engineering, Business and Elementary Education. Our programs in these areas are all accredited by their respective bodies.

What is the date of the visit? I'd rather not start counting 593 days.

April 18 to April 20, 2011.

(I know I just answered the question but this is the standard closing for all Tuesday Tidbits. It also gives me a chance to wax poetic.)

When is the visit?

593 days from today – September 1, 2009

We know what will happen in five nine three,
We'll get a visit from HLC!

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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