

Article for the VOICE
February 23, 2011

Visiting Team for Accreditation Visit is Named

The Higher Learning Commission has named the Visiting Team for Purdue North Central. The six member team will be holding a routine comprehensive visit beginning on April 18. The team will hold open meetings for various groups including students. The actual schedule is not available at this time but will be well publicized when it is finalized. All contacts for the Visiting team should be made through the Chancellor's office.

The Higher Learning Commission is the regional accrediting body for the nineteen state region in the center of the country. Over one thousand colleges and universities are members. Regional accreditation is necessary so that students may more easily transfer credit between schools, seek entrance to graduate education and receive federal financial aid. This level of accreditation also is an indication of progress toward institutional goals, quality improvement and professional development. PNC has been fully accredited by this body since 1971. The last comprehensive visit was held in April, 2001.

Dr. Leslie D. Crall (Team Chair)
Associate Dean
School of Business and Technology
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Weatherford, OK

He has been at his campus since 1984, is a full professor and teaches classes in Business Law, Commercial Law, Real Estate and Cost Accounting. He has an MBA and a JD. His accreditation expertise is in assessment of student learning, student affairs and athletics. His campus has slightly more than 5,000 students and offers the doctorate in Pharmacy, 15 master's degrees, 54 bachelor's degrees and 2 associate degrees.

Dr. Georgia Jo Christensen, FSPA
Dean of the School of Graduate, Professional and Adult Education
Viterbo University
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Sister Georgia Christensen has been on her campus since 2000 and for seven years served as the Director of Institutional Research. She started her own academic work at Viterbo when she received her BA in Mathematics on that campus. Her M.Ed and PhD are in Educational Administration. Her accreditation experience is in adult degree completion, faculty evaluation and development and enrollment management and retention. Viterbo University is a private, Catholic institution with more than 3,200 students. It offers 30

undergraduate majors and four graduate programs including a MS in Nursing and an MBA.

Dr. Narbeth Emmanuel
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville, Illinois

Dr. Emmanuel has been on his campus since 1996. He has all his degree work from Bowling Green State University. His B.S. and M.Ed. are in Health and Physical Education and his Ph.D. is in Educational Administration and Supervision. His accreditation experience is in athletics, planning, first year experience and international programs. He recently helped his campus plan, build and begin using a student success center building. He has served on twelve previous Visiting Teams including part of a US delegation of Educators to the Republic of China. SIU – Edwardsville has 14,000 students and offers several professional degrees, 47 master's degrees and 44 bachelor's degrees.

Dr. Thomas Krepel
President
Fairmont State University
Fairmont, West Virginia

President Krepel joined Fairmont State University in his current position in 2009. He has a M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Administration and a B.S.E. in Secondary Education. All of his degree work was done at the University of Nebraska. His accreditation experience is in governance, community services and engagement. His campus is home to both Fairmont State University and to Pierpont Community and Technical College. Fairmont has 4,600 students and offers over 90 baccalaureate degrees and graduate programs in business, criminal justice, education and human services. Pierpont offers the associate degrees, skill sets and certificates.

Dr. Brenda Mitchell
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Dr. Mitchell joined her campus in 2002 and has had experience owning her own medical/legal consulting-services company. She has both a Masters of Nursing and a DSN in Nursing. Her accreditation expertise is in Academic Affairs. University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is a campus with 7,700 students majoring in, primarily, education, health and business programs. Air Force ROTC is offered nearby and Army ROTC is offered on campus.

Dr. David Underwood
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Arkansas technical University
Russellville, Arkansas

Dr. Underwood is a specialist for the HLC in Change Chapters. Since we are requesting two changes in our status with the HLC he is an excellent choice to join our Visiting Team. Dr. Underwood has been on his campus since 2000. His BA is in Sociology and his MA Ed and MPS are in Counseling. All of this work was done at Western Kentucky University. His PhD is in Educational Psychology and was earned at IU. His campus offers over 100 programs in a wide variety of bachelor's degrees and six master's degrees. There are 9,800 students on the campus.

Anyone with questions or concerns about this visit or the Team itself should contact Dr. Linda Duttlinger at X5217. She is the Director of Accreditation and Assessment.