

TELLING SOUTH SEATTLE'S STORY:  
TAKING PRIDE IN WHAT WE DO WELL &  
IDENTIFYING WHAT WE CAN DO EVEN BETTER



ACCREDITATION

"We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."  
- T.S. Eliot -

On **October 24 & 25**, our accrediting body, **Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCUE)** will conduct our Five-Year Interim Evaluation. Dr. Claudeen R. Buettner, Executive Vice President & Chief Academic Officer from College of Southern Idaho and Dr. Linda Gerber, Interim Dean of Student Support Services (retired) from Portland Community College will comprise our evaluation team.

**What is Accreditation and Why is Accreditation Important?**

Accreditation is a process of recognizing South Seattle's commitment to student learning. Accreditation confirms that we, as a college, do what we claim to do with quality and integrity. It's a way to assure students of our professional competence.

Our Five-Year Interim Report will show what South Seattle is doing collectively to improve the College and the learning environment for students.

- It's a process of critical reflection on our practices of improving student learning
- It's a continuous process of institutional learning and self understanding that shows our goals are soundly conceived, our educational programs, student services, resources allocation, planning and decision making are focused on improving student success.

Mission, Priorities, & Student Learning Outcomes

South Seattle Community College is a constantly evolving educational community, dedicated to providing *quality-learning experiences*, which prepares students to meet their goals for life and work.

The College commits itself to serving the diverse needs of students in our communities by providing:

- College transfer programs and technical and professional programs
- Responsive technical and professional training developed in collaboration with business, labor, and industry
- Student-centered and community-centered programs and services which value diversity, supports learning, and promote student success
- Lifelong learning opportunities for the cultural, social, professional, and personal development of the members of our community

**MISSION**

**SSCC STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2005-07**

1. Promote **student learning & success**
2. Ensure the **financial health** of the college

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** Communications, Computation, Human Relations, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Technology, Personal Responsibility, Information Literacy

# THINGS TO KNOW FROM 2000 ACCREDITATION VISIT

In 2000, SSCC received its ten year accreditation review report. In the report, the college received these commendations:

- **Involvement of faculty, staff and students** in shared **governance**
- **Faculty and staff** are **enthusiastic** and **committed** to the **college's mission**
- **Outstanding self-study document** that is well-organized and clearly references the accreditation standards
- **Creative use of community partners:** New Holly, WorkSource Center, Boeing, and the State of Washington
- **Cooperative education/internship** program in WorkSource Center
- **Decade-long commitment to an assessment process, college-wide understanding of educational assessment** and genuine support from the administration, faculty and staff for the process

The college received the following recommendations:

- The college should **assign full-time faculty to each program offering a degree or one-year certificate** in order to provide substantive, progressive and well-designed programs of study. (Standard 2.C.7)
- Several programs in **auxiliary funds of the college have accumulated significant deficits**. Currently, no plan exists to deal with these deficits, and their negative cash balances are being offset by surplus balances from other programs in the fund. The college needs to ascertain whether it is possible that these programs will be able to operate on a self-sustaining basis. If not, the college should consider budget transfers or other strategies to eliminate the deficits and bring revenues in line with expenditures (Standard 7.B.8)
- The college should **improve and expand the physical facilities at the Duwamish Training Center**. This would enhance student safety, improve learning environments, and expand student parking, as well as project a more positive technological image. (Standard 8.A.)

For more information on our upcoming Five-Year Accreditation Visit, contact Cheryl Roberts, Vice President for Instruction.

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHANGES SINCE 2000

Since 2000, economic and demographic changes in the Seattle area have been dramatic. In **2000, the economy was robust, employers faced shortages of trained employees, and the IT industry was at its peak**. Shortly thereafter, the IT bubble burst, Boeing laid off tens of thousands of employees, and the Puget Sound area had one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Demand for education and training was near an all-time high. At the same time, a state budget crisis resulted in reduced funding to colleges and legislative-mandated tuition increases of 40% over 5 years. Tuition is currently \$71.40 per credit. In 2004, the economy began rebounding, employment began increasing, and the demand for community college programs in the Puget Sound area began declining. Enrollment continues to be soft. Higher tuition continues to impact enrollment. Housing in Seattle is now one of the most expensive in the nation, driving middle and low income residents – many of whom attend community colleges – out of the city and into the suburbs. SSCC continues to adapt programs and services to meet these changes.

## INCREASING INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Through the strategic planning process, SSCC has focused on meeting its goals and priorities during the past five years. For the past four years, the priorities have been as follows:

### 2003-2005 Priority # 1- Ensuring Financial Health

- The **college reserve has increased** from \$302,564 in 2001 to \$1.2 million in 2005.
- The **college resale fund balance has improved** from a negative balance of \$137,694 in 2001 to a positive balance of \$802,148 in 2005.
- The **Foundation budget increased** as follows:

	Revenue	Net Assets
2000	\$741,629	\$3,467,810
2004	\$991,094	\$3,886,597
- **Tuition revenue has increased** from \$2,984,737 in 2000 to \$5,524,171 in 2004.

### 2003-2005 Priority # 2 – Align and prioritize resources to meet student demand, program requirements and enrollment management goals.

- New programs were instituted in wine, health care, and Asian Studies, while programs in **floristry, machining, and occupational teacher education were discontinued.**
- The **budgeting process** continues to be **closely tied to strategic planning.** In 2004, resources were allocated to the following college priorities: to increase health care and wine studies enrollment, to implement retention strategies, to provide increased support for distance learning, counseling, and support for the NewHolly campus.
- The college **funded a community awareness/opinion survey of our service area to assess community needs** for programs and to target marketing/outreach strategy.
- A **University Center is under development** as a strategy resource **to build the transfer program** and address a demand for bachelor degrees in the community.

### 2003-2005 Priority # 3 – Invest in strategies to support student success, retention, completion and transfer

Evidence of the success of strategies can be found in the college benchmarks report. Following are a few examples:

- **Retention of new students**, (fall to spring), grew from 57% in 2000 to 64% in 2004
- **Academic degrees increased** from 144 in 2000 to 243 in 2004, a 68% increase
- **Technical degrees increased** from 198 in 2001 to 265 in 2004, a 34% increase
- **Academic students prepared to transfer increased** from 477 in 2001 to 691 in 2004, a 45% increase
- For **technical students**, the **number of students prepared to work increased** from 921 in 2000-2001 to 1036 in 2003-2004, a 12% increase
- **Distance Learning enrollment increased** from 874 credits taken, (747 completed), in fall 2000 to 1,982 credits taken, (1,773 completed), in fall 2004. At the same time, **SSCC's completion rate is the highest in the state** for the past 4 years, (86% in 2004, compared to 75% state average)

**Of concern, however, is a drop in overall retention and degrees awarded in 2005.** This decline was also experienced by nearly every community college in the Puget Sound region. This is being analyzed, by the Institutional Effectiveness Committee, to determine if this is an anomaly or a trend that should be addressed.

**One excellent example of how the strategic planning process has been successful can be seen in the retention of African American students.** In 2001, a focus on retention of African American students was implemented, based on findings that retention for African Americans was 38%, compared to 58% for Caucasians. In response, the college hired a director of diversity and retention, who developed a program to address this gap. In 2003-2004, retention of African American students increased to 55%, while retention for Caucasians was 63%. In 2004-2005, retention for African American students increased to 63%, exceeding the retention for Caucasian students of 60% and the retention for all students of 59%. **The Institutional Effectiveness committee is now studying the drop in retention for all students.**

## **NEW INITIATIVES SINCE 2000**

In response to community needs over the past 5 years, **South has added certified nursing assistant (CNA), a health care bridge certificate, licensed practical nurse certificate, Fire Science, wine studies, while discontinuing floristry, machining, and occupational teacher education.** Nursing supports the college's goal of expanding the transfer program, since students must take a number of academic courses as prerequisites. The college has added an Asian Studies option for the Associate of Arts degree; strengthening the partnership with the Seattle Chinese Garden Society, which is constructing a \$20 million authentic Chinese garden on the north end of campus.

**During the past five years, SSCC has become a leader in Workfirst (welfare reform) programs.** As part of this initiative, the college has been **nationally recognized for its success integrating ESL with technical programs.** This integrated model has strengthened both ESL and technical programs. This program has also supported one of the college's goals of transitioning greater number of students from ESL to college level programs. The most recent report from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges indicates that **50% of SSCC's ESL students, who "intended to transfer", did enroll in a college level class within the next few years – the highest rate in the state.**

An initiative designed to meet the college mission of developing partnerships and strengthening collaborations has been developed at the Duwamish campus during the past two years. **Creation of the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center (PSIEC) coalition** enabled the college to obtain the seven-acre property adjacent to the Duwamish campus through legislative action, resulting in a doubling of the size of the campus. Within the next few years, the facility will be one of the most modern apprenticeship and training centers on the West Coast. The thirty partners are providing training for area manufacturers, apprenticeship, building and construction trades, family wage jobs, and services to help area residents start and build small businesses.

During the past five years, **one of the most visible signs of progress toward college goals/priorities has been new facility construction on the main campus as well as at the Duwamish Apprenticeship & Education Center.**

- **Replacement of Duwamish Building A with a 24,700 square foot building which includes classrooms and laboratories for vocational training.**
- **The Olympic Hall, a 47,000 square foot, \$20 million building, opened on the main campus in 2004. The building features outstanding science and business labs, supporting increased enrollment in transfer, business, nursing and continuing education.**
- In order to address Goal I (SSCC Collaborates with Higher Education Institutions) the **college will soon begin construction on the University Center.** Scheduled to open in 2006, the Center will provide students and community members the **opportunity to complete AA degrees through SSCC, and pursue bachelor's degrees on campus,** offered by several university partners.
- In 2005-2006, the college will also completely **remodel the pastry and specialty baking facilities, a welding facility, and the auto collision repair building.** In addition, it will **construct a garden center in coordination with the Seattle Chinese Garden society.** The **apprentice training facilities** will also see **two new buildings.** All of these are designed to better replicate industry standards, to increase partnerships, and to strengthen instruction for students.