

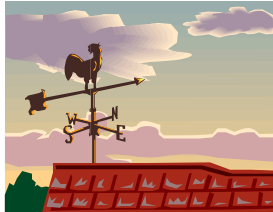
LEARNING CURVE

Northeast
community college
Norfolk, Nebraska

A s s e s s m e n t N e w s l e t t e r

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A New Day is Dawning

On November 14, 2006, Northeast Community College saw daybreak as Higher Learning Commission evaluator, Dr. Gary Wheeler announced: “*all expectations have been met and no further monitoring reports or visits will be required prior to the next comprehensive evaluation in 2013*”. And so, the sun sets on a crucial period of our assessment history when assessment progressed from being an overwhelming challenge to, as Dr. Wheeler put it, “*clearly embedded in the institutional culture*”. A new day is dawning, with unending possibilities for expansion and innovation. The winds have shifted, but we are definitely headed in the right direction--- Northeast.

Together we assess and achieve measurable outcomes – a win for us all!

A Moment to Reflect on Our Progress

Pam Saalfeld was absolutely the best Annie that anyone could have ever imagined! For the past several in-services, the *Assessment Annie* skits provided a metaphorical look at our assessment progress. When we first met Annie, she didn't even have a pulse, but she was revived, went through some rigorous physical therapy and ended up singing and dancing with her friends. Lin and Corinne had great fun writing and even performing in the skits, but bringing them to life, required the talent and commitment of all those who so willingly played their parts. Special thanks to all: Pam Saalfeld, Howard Meier, Don Moser, Paul Bailey, Louise Torkelson, Michael Lechner, Ann Oertwich, Roger Gipson, Don Benjamin, Melinda Schneider, Anthony Beardslee, John Skogstoe, Mary O'Boyle, Amy Ries, and Linda Boullion. We couldn't have done it without you!



Annie's story parallels the Northeast story of assessment progress. The list of characters who played key roles in our story is long: members of taskforces, sub-committees and FACS teams; full-time faculty; part-time faculty; students; academic deans; the president and numerous vice presidents; I.R. director; administrative assistants; support staff; consultants and others. Thank you all for your contributions—it was truly a unified effort!

What Did We Have to Show for Ourselves?

The Resource Room was rich with materials and documents created over the past three years. It was humbling to see the collection, and realize how many people and hours it took to get us to where we are now. Special thanks to Connie Sixta, Stacie McCarville and Doris Holmquist for preparing the room for the HLC evaluators. A glimpse of the room is provided below.



What Do We Have to Say for Ourselves?

Several employees were asked to comment on the results of the focused visit and our assessment efforts for the past three years. The three responses provided below seem to sum up our experiences quite well:

“As I look back on the journey to the focused visit, I think of three years of dedication, perseverance, and meetings. What stands out in my mind is that our faculty teams were very “focused” from the beginning. Perhaps that’s why they call it a focused visit. To say we were intensely busy working on assessment isn’t an exaggeration. I wished the HLC team could have visited more throughout the campus community. They would have seen what I see, a learning community where students come first. Three years of work was pictured in the resource room. To see it all there on display was nostalgic and satisfying to me. I hope many had a chance to stop by. I thank all who participated and worked hard to achieve this victory.”

~Lin Behmer~

“In the assessment committee meeting with the focus team members, after listening to our thoughtful responses to their questions, Dr. Wheeler asked how we managed to sustain the drive and enthusiasm. It was very apparent that our level of commitment and dedication went far deeper than compliance. I am confident that the team members picked up on these qualities in every interaction they had with our employees. Our sincerity was noticed and acknowledged. I feel honored to work with all the great people at NECC.”

~Donna Niemeyer~

“What can I say, WE ROCK!

~Cal Lamprecht~

In-services of Not so Long Ago



They stood up front and talked and talked ---They really were relentless. Assessment this ...Assessment that...---We thought they were against us.

As it turned out, they really cared – they tried to do what’s best. Though it wasn’t always easy---we passed each and every test.

The focused visit is over now --- Our assessment plan’s just right. In-service will be different now ---- At last! They pass the mic.



NOTE: In celebration of the results of the focused visit, this *Learning Curve* asks for nothing. ☺ The December issue will provide news, deadlines and updates regarding 2007 initiatives.