NACEP ACCREDITATION: ONE ACCREDITATION CYCLE IN REVIEW

What accreditation standards mean for concurrent enrollment
THE STANDARDS HAVE PROVIDED MANY GENERAL BENEFITS FOR JCCC

✓ Alignment with national standards
✓ External input and review of our program
✓ Improved tracking of all aspects of program
✓ Additional research (impact study was new for us)
✓ Assistance with transferability of credits
✓ More “muscle” when dealing with policy change implementation w/secondary partners
✓ Collegial interaction for support and problem solving
✓ Near 100 percent instructor compliance with College Now policies (also thanks to a small stipend implemented along with accreditation).
HOW STANDARDS SPECIFICALLY HELPED BENEFIT OUR CEP PROGRAM

- Professional development revamped
- Communication with instructors/high schools enhanced
- High school discipline-specific liaisons added
- Strengthened relationship with HS counselors
- Improved site visit form/syllabus checklist
- Reaching a broader group of students
- Program-wide emphasis on The Authentic Classroom
Each partner high school designates a “Building Representative” (typically a counselor).

This relationship is cultivated carefully and deliberately.

The Building Representatives help JCCC get the message out about NACEP and help bring the instructors on board with the importance of accreditation.

They are our “choir” for the program within each high school.

We find they like bacon.
MORE FORMS!!!

Not everyone’s idea of a good time, however...

- New syllabus checklist
- New site visit form
- Site visit tracking
  - The forms present questions that are guided by NACEP standards.
  - We stole these ideas from others at NACEP conferences.

Faculty liaisons appreciate the new structure and clarity of the forms!
REACHING MORE STUDENTS

- Historically our program only reached the honors/AP students due to the nature of our curriculum.

- In the last 5-8 years JCCC has expanded our reach by adding sections of horticulture, computer, and metal fabrication.

- Several years ago we began offering a soft skills one-credit hour class in a local alternative high school and now have expanded into a second alternative high school.

- NACEP encourages increasing access to higher education and promotes research on the CEP and underrepresented students.
THE AUTHENTIC CLASSROOM

- Door signs for College Now outside each CEP classroom
- Wording suggestions for syllabi:

  “Course Engagement: Learning at the college-level requires that students explore new issues, and previously explored issues in new ways, in order to engage in the critical thinking that is so necessary for college-level work. . . . Students need to come to class with a willingness to learn of a variety of points of view in order to develop their own informed thinking.”

- Use the term “office hours” instead of “planning period”
- Stressing the importance of saying “at your next campus” rather than “when you get to college”
MORE ON THE AUTHENTIC CLASSROOM

- Using the research from Melinda Karp (CCRC) CEP instructors are asked to stress these important aspects of college-culture:

  - **Academic habits:** Expected to manage workflow independently, without prompts and reminders.
  - **Cultural know-how:** how to interact with faculty, more uncomfortable classroom discourse, exposure to new ideas.
  - **Balance multiple roles and time demands:** more college students are balancing work demands with school.
  - **New forms of help-seeking:** Self-directed help-seeking and way-finding will be the new expectation. They needed to learn how to ask for help before they are too late...
BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

As a professional association

- Conferences
  - Program management support
  - Professional connection and commiseration
- Research
- Leadership opportunities
- Growing state-chapter affiliates
- Support in dealing with CEP critics
BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

For modeling the standards

- Provides a place to start when making decisions about your program
- Many states are incorporating portions of the NACEP standards into policy
- For new programs it provides guiding best-practices
- For older programs it provides an external lever to motivate needed changes
BENEFITS OF NACEP TO CONSIDER

For accreditation

- Serves as a guarantee to students, policy-makers, and other postsecondary institutions that the accredited partnership meets rigorous national standards
- Distinguishes a concurrent enrollment partnership, thereby enhancing its ability to recruit new partners and students
- Aids students and families when they seek credit recognition for their college credits earned through concurrent enrollment
- Allows programs to display the NACEP logo on their websites and in other publications
CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

☑ The accreditation process is time-consuming
☑ You will need buy-in from institutional research office and supervisors
☑ It will create stress on faculty liaisons
☑ Core changes in procedure can create challenges with high school partners
☑ NACEP guidelines do not align completely with some state policy
☑ You can’t do anything else important in your life during this process, so remodel your kitchen now!
BEST ADVICE FOR THE PROCESS

- Create a good accreditation application team
- Think of the application from the reviewers perspective
- Bring some critics into the process (they will be converted)
- Know this will make your program better
- Start with the easy standards first
- Celebrate your milestones