

January 31, 2016

# Happy New Year! 2016

Volume 1, Issue 5



## Inside this Issue

**Welcome Back!**

**January 13, 2016  
AFR Steering  
Committee Meeting**

**January 22, 2016  
Flex Day  
Accreditation  
Workshop**

**Spotlights !!**

**District Liaison  
Updates**

**Next AFR Steering  
Committee Meeting  
February 3, 2016**

*Dr. Mia Kelly  
Editor*

*AFR Newsletter*

## Welcome to Merritt College Accreditation Follow-Up Report (AFR) Updates!

*The purpose of the newsletter is to ensure open communication, transparency, and accountability to all college constituencies around the Accreditation Follow-Up Report processes.*

### *January 2016 Steering Committee Meeting and Flex Day Accreditation Workshop*

The initial AFR drafts submitted in December by Sub-Committee Co-Leads were reviewed over the winter break... it is clear that hard work has prevailed and substantial progress has been made. However, during the upcoming months before the External Evaluation Team visit in October, it is also apparent that there is still much work to be done to provide evidence and demonstrate sustainability of the corrective actions taken by the College to meet ACCJC Standards.

At the Steering Committee meeting on January 13th, the Administrative Team presented their plans to address the four critical issues identified by the External Evaluation Team that were in need of reexamination as we work towards Reaffirmation. These issues, listed in the November 30, newsletter were: 1. Integrated Planning and

Budgeting, 2. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, 3. College Educational Master Plan, and 4. Use of Data in Institutional Planning and Decision Making.

During the January 22, 2016 Flex Day Program, an interactive workshop provided an update on the AFR and informed the college community of these 4 critical issues. The ultimate goal of the



**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**  
Facilitators Dr. Tina Vasconcellos,  
Romeo Garcia

workshop was to ensure that all college constituents are able to articulate a clear understanding of, and the application of (Continued on p. 2.)



**Using Data in Institutional Planning and Decision Making**  
Facilitators Dr. Arnulfo Cedillo, Samantha Knappenberger



**CEMP** Facilitators President Norma Ambriz-Galaviz  
Dr. Wise Allen, Dr. Lilia Chavez, Rachel Antrobus

#### **Merritt College Mission Statement**

The mission of Merritt College is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by helping students attain knowledge, master skills, and develop the appreciation, attitudes and values needed to succeed and participate responsibly in a democratic society and a global community.

# *Flex Day Accreditation Workshop !!*

## *January 22, 2016*

administrative procedures, calendars, and processes related to these four critical issues.

Robust dialogue, conversations, and numerous questions abounded. It became evident that a follow-up session was necessary to maintain the momentum of the Flex Day Workshop and to provide ample opportunity for workshop attendees to participate in all four of the breakout sessions.

Workshop participants expressed the desire to reconvene the workshop and a willingness to get the word out to other faculty and classified staff who would benefit from the information provided. In response to this request, the AFR Team and College Administrators agreed to schedule a repeat workshop in a few weeks on February 19th.

To assess learner attainment, a pre and post mixed methodology survey was administered to all workshop participants.



**Spotlight on Stefanie Harding!!!**  
*A BIG THANK YOU* to Stefanie Harding who has stepped up to assist with several key tasks that will further the Accreditation effort:  
 1. Finalizing the Collegial Governance Handbook and 2. Creating a schematic to reflect the College's Decision Making Processes. Stefanie has been intimately involved with Merritt's operations for many years and we greatly value her expertise and commitment!

### Integrated Planning and Budgeting

Facilitators Dr. Dativa Del Rosario, Dr. Rosemary Delia



**Thank you, Dr. Del Rosario,**

...for lending astute expertise in working with the AFR Core Team to clarify the intricate steps of Merritt's Integrated Planning and Budgeting (IPB) Model.



Successfully implementing and chronicling this critical issue is an integral component to achieving reaffirmed status. To learn more about IPB and what you need to know in order to demystify this process, please attend the Accreditation Follow-Up Workshop on Feb 19, 2016.

**Dr. Dettie will get your questions answered!!**

### Updates from the District Liaison, Dr. Annette Dambrosio



Recent correspondence from our District Liaison Dr. Annette Dambrosio indicates that District is on track in its response to eight (8) District Recommendations identified by the ACCJC External Evaluation Team. Dr. Dambrosio is working with each team to assist with the work. The Peralta Home page includes a Timeline for Report Writing and Communications and an Accreditation Planning Matrix (both documents will be updated as needed). Most of the Plans for each Recommendation will be posted also. They are working on narrative drafts for each Recommendation and will be posting evidence as they go. Finally, Dr. Dambrosio will be collaborating with the Colleges to ensure that the District efforts are clear and meet the needs of each College.

*For questions or comments contact: [adambrosio@peralta.edu](mailto:adambrosio@peralta.edu)*

**Pre and Post Surveys were administered during the workshop to assess knowledge.**



**Samantha Knappenberger,** Merritt's College Researcher, is aggregating the survey data from the January 22, 2016 Accreditation Workshop. A comprehensive summary of the results is forthcoming and will be shared with the College community.

Some preliminary qualitative responses are:

*In a few words, describe your understanding of how Merritt College integrates Planning and Budgeting:*  
**(From faculty)...**

"We need to make sure that from the top tiers on down, the units and departments all understand this process".

"APU'S are the key ingredient to integrated planning and budgeting for the Ed Master Plan".

*In a few words, please provide one example of how your department or area determined changes to teaching or services based on the outcomes of completed assessment in the past year.*  
**(From faculty)...**

"We instituted a web-based exam prep program in response to pass rate on licensure exam. 100% pass last August".

### AFR Core Values and Vision Statement

**Our Logo is symbolic of Merritt's collective diversity, ideas, and desire to work collaboratively to create a unified whole in efforts of restoring the institution's accreditation to excellence and beyond... through inspection and evidence-based analysis we are reconstructing the puzzle to exemplify the shared vision, mission, and core values of the institution. — Dr. Mia Kelly**