

Welcome to the 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.

AFR Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Transparency The AFR Core Team is committed to transparency, accountability, and ongoing communication. The newsletter provides a straightforward synopsis and update on the work and progress of the AFR Core Team, Steering Committee, and College Recommendation Sub-Committees.

Trajectory The mission of the AFR Core Team is to consistently maintain an upward trajectory to achieve Reaffirmed Accreditation.

The AFR Core Team, Steering Committee and College Recommendation Sub-Committees will promote reasonable expectations, realistic goals and a projected timeframe for expected outcomes. More importantly, the 2015-16 corrective actions taken by the College to meet ACCJC Standards and Eligibility Requirements must demonstrate sustainability.

Sustainability Merritt College

faculty, administrators and staff must commit to the goal of making incremental changes that are sustainable over time with the mindset that the foundational work will create an evolving template. A second goal is to mobilize all College constituencies to take responsibility and ownership for specific content areas. Designated teams are needed to sustain long term planning, and continuity.

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.

Preliminary Work of the AFR Core Team

The first meeting of the AFR Core Team convened on August 31, 2015. The mission of the AFR Core Team is to develop, plan and implement strategies for an effective Accreditation Follow-Up Report to address the nine College Recommendations and

Eligibility Requirements 10, 18, and 19. The AFR Core Team meets several times weekly to strategize and refine action plans. Work to date has included: meeting with the College President, Administrators, Shared Governance Committees,

and colleagues. The AFR Core Team recommends that all College constituencies review the Merritt College External Evaluation Report, May 8, 2015 and the ACCJC Action letter dated June 29, 2015.



Accreditation Follow-Up Report
Inspect what you expect!

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Meet the AFR Core Team

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**AFR Updates will be
disseminated on the last day
of each month.**

Dr. Mia Kelly
Editor, AFR Newsletter

AFR College Wide Meeting, Wednesday, September 23, 2015



AFR Core Team (L to R),
Ms. Dinh Truong, Dr. Mia Kelly,
Dr. Audrey Trotter,
President, Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz.
(not pictured) Jennifer Lough Kennedy

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 to full accreditation, 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

A Big Thank You to the faculty, administrators, and classified staff who attended the AFR College Wide Meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the Merritt Campus Community of the planning accomplished to date and to review the nine (9) College Recommendations and strategies to meet ACCJC Standards.

Approximately forty participants were in attendance. President Dr. Ambriz-Galaviz extended a warm welcome which was followed by introductions of the AFR Core Team: Dr. Audrey Trotter, Chair,

Dr. Mia Kelly, Co-Chair, Ms. Dinh Truong, Project Manager, and Ms. Jennifer Lough Kennedy, Writer/Editor. Dr. Kelly then presented the AFR Core Values and Vision Statement. Ms. Dinh Truong presented an overview of the AFR 18 Month Timeline. Dr. Audrey Trotter provided an explanation and rationale for the AFR framework. Meeting participants were

encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions.

In closing, the Core Team culminated the meeting with the definition of the sanction of *"Probation"* emphasizing a **"Call to Action"** and the critical timeline required for corrective actions needed for the College to attain Reaffirmed Accreditation.



AFR College Recommendation Workgroup Meeting Wednesday September 30, 2015

SPOTLIGHT!— A very special acknowledgement to our Accreditation Website Manager, Nghiem Thai who constructed an exceptional website in record time!



(L to R)Dr. Siri Brown, Samantha Knappenberger, Dr. Rosemary Delia (Dean) and Jennifer Briffa, strategizing!

On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, the AFR College Recommendation Workgroup Meeting convened to initiate the work of the nine College Recommendation Sub-Committees.

(L to R) Frances Moy, Samantha Knappenberger, and Debra Jacks, hard at work!



Sub-Committee Co-Leads to Date *



Recommendation 1 Co-Leads	Chris Grampp	Maura Sealund
Recommendation 2 Co-Leads	Shelia Metcalf-Tobin	Doris Hankins
Recommendation 3 Co-Leads	Anita Black	Lorna Pascual
Recommendation 4 Co-Leads	Dr. Siri Brown	Samantha Knappenberger
Recommendation 5 Co-Leads	Ann Elliot	TBA
Recommendation 6 Co-Leads	Dr. Jennifer Shanoski	Clifton Coleman
Recommendation 7 Co-Leads	Eva Ng-Chin	Denise Woodward
Recommendation 8 Co-Leads	TBA	Ron Perez
Recommendation 9 Co-Leads	Brock Drazen	Tim Brice

All questions, comments, and suggestions are welcome. If you would like to lend your expertise to a specific committee please let us know.

—Thanks!...

*Evolving List, Subject to Change

AFR Steering Committee Membership

Merritt College President

Accreditation Follow-Up Report (AFR) Core Team

College Recommendation Sub-Committee Co-Leads

All Merritt College Administrators

President of Academic Senate

President of the Classified Senate

Research and Planning Officer

Chair of SLOAC

AFR Website Coordinator

AFR Electronic Evidence Collection Coordinator

Next Steps...

AFR College Recommendation Sub-Committee Work Begins!

Upcoming October, 2015 Issue

Update of the AFR Sub-Committees

Meet the Accreditation Follow-Up Report (AFR) Core Team



Dr. Audrey Trotter, Chair, has 35 years of diverse experiences in community colleges. Dr. Trotter has served as a faculty member in Education and Learning Resources at Merritt College and Director of the Learning Center since 2003, Title III Grant Project Director from 2008 to 2014, with service in the Peralta Community College District since 1999. Accreditation Experience includes: Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALD) at two Peralta Colleges; Lead Community College Self Evaluation Report, Mid Term Progress Report, Follow-Up Report Teams and Processes and service on four ACCJC Accreditation Evaluation Teams. Dr. Trotter has been a representative of the Academic Senate since 2007 serving as Treasurer and more recently as Vice President. She has also served as President of the College Council and Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Dr. Mia Kelly, Co-Chair is the Tenure Review Facilitator for new hires on the tenure track. With 12 years of experience in the Peralta College system as a faculty member in the Allied Health Department, Dr. Kelly has participated in continuous quality improvement, rigorous cycles of interdepartmental self-evaluations and accreditation as mandated by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Dr. Kelly has completed ACCJC Accreditation training for Evaluators and received Certification. Dr. Kelly has served as the Director of the Pre-Nursing Summer Boot Camp Program with a research focus on data driven, evidence-based remediation strategies to guide student success and promote retention. As a former Merritt College student, Dr. Kelly understands the importance of Community College education and is excited to be a member of the AFR Core Team.



Ms. Jennifer Kennedy, Writer/Editor, is an independent consultant/grant writer who has worked with the Peralta Community College District for over 10 years on major grant projects, and accreditation projects. Key achievements include securing an Early College High School grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/Foundation for California Community Colleges, a highly competitive National Science Foundation ATE grant for Laney College's Environmental Technology program, and a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education, for Merritt College. Prior to starting her consultancy in 2004, Ms. Kennedy worked as the Director of Grants for Peralta Colleges.

Ms. Dinh Truong, Project Manager, has professional experience in research and evaluation of large public agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that received government funded grants. Ms. Truong played an integral role in program coordination, contract management, research and evaluation. As a product of the Oakland Unified School District Ms. Truong attended the Peralta Community Colleges as a high school senior. Ms. Truong is excited to be working with an institution that provides gateways into higher education and numerous options for those who may not pursue a Bachelor's degree by providing Associate degrees, Vocational training and certificates.

