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ACCREDITATION CHRONICLE

Volume 1, Issue 1
October 20, 2004

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITA- TION:

- Provides an opportunity to thoroughly evaluate the University.
- Maintains the quality of education for all students.
- Attracts qualified personnel, which improves our educational offerings.
- Protects from undue government influence on how we operate.

Self-Study Begins!

Originally granted accreditation in 1975 by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), Cedarville University was reaccredited in 1979 and granted 10-year accreditation in 1987 and 1997. We are scheduled for our next site evaluation in spring 2007. Find out what has been and will be accomplished this semester on **Page 2**.



For more information about the NCA, visit their web page at www.ncacasi.org.

CU Mission Getting A Revision



Dr. Robert Parr and the Mission & Integrity Subcommittee will be facilitating a campus discussion to inaugurate the process of rewriting the Cedarville University mission statement. Dr. Brown and the Administrative Council have requested that the subcommittee solicit campus input for the revision. He would like to bring the mission up-to-date in concert with contemporary expectations for a mission statement. Continued on **Page 3**.

Listening to Your Voice

The Self-Study is not just a report; rather it is an evaluation of how well the University operates. Your voice is an important part of that process, and the committees are focused on listening to that voice. How can this happen? See **Page 3**.

SOON, THE
STEERING
COMMITTEE WILL
INITIATE
INFORMATION
GATHERING
PROCESSES,
INCLUDING CAMPUS-
WIDE SURVEYS.

Self-Study cont. (from page 1)

Preparations began last year with the selection of the Self-Study Coordinator and the creation of the University Assessment Committee, which conducts separate activities necessary for the Self-Study. With the approval of the Administrative Council and the Trustee Board, the Steering Committee commenced its work this Fall Semester. The Committee has approved its mission & objectives, in addition to completing the Self-Study timeline

and sending it to our HLC staff liaison, Dr. John Taylor. Throughout, the semester the committee will form the subcommittees, asking several on campus to participate. Soon, the Steering Committee will initiate information gathering processes, including campus-wide surveys, for the current self-study of Cedarville University. The Self-Study is well underway, and the Steering Committee is hard at work on behalf of the entire campus family.

The Self-Study is nothing without the people who participate in it.

Who is the Self-Study?

Carla Gaines



The Self-Study is nothing without the people who participate in it. Therefore, future editions will introduce the people and groups of Cedarville University who will be a part of this process.

Carla Gaines, a graduate of Cedarville University, accepted the position of Assistant to the Self-Study Coordinator, effective August, 2004. She will be adding this half-time position to her role as Secretary for the Department of Social Sciences & History. Her duties include organizing all incoming

data, facilitating communication both on and off campus, managing the Self-Study timeline, and administering the Self-Study office. Therefore, please give any correspondence from her your full attention. Carla plays a vital role in this project and is already doing an outstanding job.

Mission Revision cont. (from page 1)

For decades, the University mission statement has been: “To provide an education consistent with Biblical truth.” As a guideline for the revision, Dr. Brown suggests, “the mission should say who we are, what we do, who we serve, and to what end.” In the final analysis, Dr. Brown has been clear that he does not envision the new mission statement changing the essence of what Cedarville is. Rather, he simply believes that the presentation needs to be more specific. The spirit of the statement will remain the same, because Cedarville’s focus on Biblical truth as the focal point of all we are and do has not changed.

Starting this semester, the Self-Study Steering Committee will send out a series of surveys designed to gather information for the evaluation. To accurately assess the campus, these responses need to be honest and received in a timely manner. While the committee expects to find that we’re doing well in many areas, it also understands that there may be

To that end, the members of the subcommittee will be soliciting ideas from the various campus units. They will then compose a proposed statement & objectives based on the responses. After presenting the proposal to the campus family, and receiving feedback, final revisions will be made. Dr. Parr’s goal is to submit the proposed mission & objectives to the Administrative Council by late November or early December. The Mission & Integrity Subcommittee asks for your careful consideration of and participation in this process.

Listening to Your Voice cont. (from page 1)

ways to operate more effectively. This is the purpose of the Self-Study—to recognize work done well, but also acknowledge challenges and propose solutions. This project provides a wonderful opportunity for the entire institution to observe, evaluate, & improve, therefore all members of the Self-Study committees are ready to listen to you.

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Steering Committee Members

Dr. Thomas Mach
Self-Study Coordinator

Dr. Robert Parr
Mission & Integrity

Mr. Lynn Brock
Planning for the Future

Dr. Mark McClain
Student Learning

Dr. Irene Alyn
Acquisition, Discovery, & Application

Ms. Janice Supplee
Engagement & Service

Dr. Sharon Johnson
University Assessment

Dr. Steve Gruber
Graduate Programs

Ms. Janice Bosma
Library

Mr. Michael Dorsey
Intercultural Recruitment

Mr. Mark Mazelin
Computer Services

Cedarville University
251 N. Main St.
Cedarville, OH
45314

Eleven members comprise the Self-Study Steering Committee. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) asks the University to examine its compliance with five criteria in its self-study. As a result, we have created a subcommittee to evaluate the University based on each criterion. The first five members chair these Criteria Subcommittees. The next two members chair two other associated subcommittees, the University Assessment Committee and the Graduate Program Committee. The first has been hard at work during the last year revising and implementing the assessment process across campus. The

Meet the... Self-Study Steering Committee

second group will be composing Cedarville's request for a change of status with the HLC in order to offer future graduate programs. Three "at-large" members of the committee provide valuable representation for various campus departments. The final member is the Self-Study Coordinator who chairs the Steering Committee. Please pray for these individuals as they begin the Self-Study process and be available to assist them should they come to you for help or information.



Look! We're on the web!

www.cedarville.edu/accreditation

- * Self-Study links
- * Self-Study timeline
- * Assessment links
- * And much more...

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