

October 2006

NCA TIMELINE:

October-
November 2006:

- Provide training and orientation for the ACC campus community to prepare individuals for the NCA site visit.
- Finish gathering materials for the resource room, M3670.
- Finalize arrangements for the NCA site visit, December 4-6, 2006.

Self-Study Report

ACC's Self-Study Report has been published; copies have been mailed to the Higher Learning Commission and each of the seven members of the site-visit evaluation team. Several copies have been placed in the College Library for reading by members of the ACC community. Students, employees and the public may also access the entire report at: <http://www.arapahoe.edu/nca/selfstudy06/accselfstudy.pdf>.

The Self-Study Steering Committee wishes to express appreciation to the many individuals who contributed their time, hard work and expertise to create a comprehensive and visually appealing report. The report will serve as a strong foundation for evaluation team review and ACC's reaccreditation.

The Criteria for Accreditation

The Self-Study Report explains how ACC complies with the 21 core components and five criteria established by The Higher Learning Commission; compliance is important to ACC achieving reaccreditation. Previous editions of "Reaccreditation Times" described Criterion One, *Mission and Integrity*, and Criterion Two, *Preparing for the Future*.

Criterion Three, *Student Learning and Effective Teaching*, states: "The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission." This criterion is especially significant, as effective teaching and student learning are what ACC is about. For example, ACC examines student learning and teaching effectiveness through: formal assessment of student learning at the program level; analysis of student opinion survey results; monitoring and responding to suggestions and concerns expressed formally and informally by the campus community; student evaluations of instructor effectiveness; and monitoring of instructor performance by department chairs and program deans.

Criterion Four, *Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge*, states: "The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission." Faculty and staff must consistently focus upon and seek to fulfill ACC's mission centered upon the acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge: "To provide an accessible, responsive learning environment that facilitates the achievement of educational, professional, and personal goals by our students and other members of our communities in an atmosphere that embraces academic excellence, diversity, and innovation."

Additional information about the accreditation criteria may be found via ACC's link to the NCA/HLC, <http://www.arapahoe.edu/nca/index.html>, or directly at <http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org/index.php>.

Preparation for the Site Visit

A seven-member NCA evaluation team will visit ACC December 4-6, 2006. Evaluation team members will examine the College infrastructure, review documents, observe employees in the performance of their work, and conduct formal and informal interviews with faculty, staff and students. While most of the team's work will be highly structured and formally scheduled, team members may also seek random, less formal contact with any member of ACC's campus community.

Various training sessions for staff, faculty and other members of the campus community will be conducted in October and November to help prepare individuals for evaluation team interviews and inquiries. All members of ACC's campus community are encouraged to become familiar with the Self-Study Report and the expectations of the evaluation team surrounding individual areas of concern and responsibility.



QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please contact **Bob Moore, Accreditation Project Manager**
303.797.5755 or robert.moore@arapahoe.edu

'A' for Arapahoe Community College NCA Word-Game

- Win A 32 Oz. ACC Water Bottle!

Match the **A-word** in the first column with the correct definition from the second column.

The three ACC employees who get the most correct answers will receive an ACC water bottle! Bring Game entries to Murry Unell, Room M1605, slide under door if nobody is home. Deadline: October 20.

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| 1. ABIGIEUS _____ | A. Allowing knees to flex while skiing |
| 2. ACAUDATE _____ | B. Anonymous works |
| 3. ADESTPOTA _____ | C. Cattle rustler |
| 4. AEOLISTIC _____ | D. Collecting air-mail stamps |
| 5. AICHMOPHOBIA _____ | E. Fear of sharp or pointed objects |
| 6. ACCREDITATION _____ | F. Great grandfather's grandfather's brother |
| 7. ALCATOTE _____ | G. Long-winded |
| 8. ARCHIDIDASCALOS _____ | H. A collector of teddy bears |
| 9. ATPATRUUS _____ | I. What Macy's gives you for opening a charge account. |
| 10. AEROPHILATELY _____ | J. Silly elf |
| 11. AVALEMENT _____ | K. School principal |
| 12. ARCTOPHILE _____ | L. Tailless |

Mark your calendar!
**NCA SITE VISIT:
DECEMBER 4-6, 2006**

