**The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory**

**Southeastern Community College**

### Project Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Participation in the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>1-Helping Students Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>Planned Project Kickoff 09-06-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
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**Updated** | Reviewed |
| Created 09-06-2011 | Version 1 |

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**1: Project Goal**

A: Our goal is to create and implement a complete, systematic process to assess student learning at the institutional level. We will also gain an understanding of how institutional level assessment connects with our existing program review process and ongoing course level assessment.

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**2: Reasons For Project**

A: In June, 2009, SCC submitted its first Systems Portfolio to the HLC. The feedback clearly substantiated our need for a systematic process to assess student learning. Reviewers noted our lack of such a process in 1P1, 1P2, 1P17, and 1P18. In October, 2009, all employees reviewed our O and OO ratings and overwhelmingly selected SCC's lack of an assessment process as our greatest challenge. Assessment of student learning became the focus of our participation in the November Strategy Forum.

After participating in the Strategy Forum, SCC created an Institutional Assessment Committee comprised of the President, CAO, Dean of Humanities, Director of Institutional Research, Director of Grants & Accreditation, and six faculty members from various programs. In September, 2011, the Committee created bylaws which implemented term limits for faculty members and the academic dean so that more would have a chance to participate.

Southeastern wrote a new Strategic Plan in 2011, and “Systematically assess student learning college-wide” is included as a strategy. The President also included specific assessment-related activities in her 2012 Goals.

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**3: Organizational Areas Affected**

A: The Teaching & Learning Division will be most affected by this Action Project.

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**4: Key Organizational Process(es)**

A: Classroom instruction and faculty professional development.

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**5: Project Time Frame Rationale**

A: The length of time is determined by SCC's participation in the HLC Assessment Academy, which is a four-year commitment.

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**6: Project Success Monitoring**

A: Since the 2009 Strategy Forum, SCC's Assessment Committee has worked with all faculty to create five new core competencies. Having learned from past unsuccessful attempts to implement assessment, the Committee decided to start slow and chose to pilot just one of the new competencies: Communication. The Committee created indicators for this competency, using input from all faculty and staff gathered at an in-service.

The President included the following in her goals for 2012: “Work with faculty to identify and/or create appropriate assessments for the Communications Core Competency in all key courses by May 11, 2012.” She provides semi-annual updates to the Board of Trustees on her progress toward the goals.

SCC's 2011 5-year Strategic Plan includes the following initiatives:
- Develop Competencies for each of the five core competencies.
- Implement and administer an assessment of student learning based on our Core Competencies utilizing our competency indicators
Progress toward all initiatives is monitored by the President's Executive Cabinet and the Board of Trustees.
SCC will also establish a timeline and milestones through its participation in the Academy and will provide updates / reports as required.

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<th>7: Project Outcome Measures</th>
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<td>A: As well as the outcomes listed in question 6 above, SCC's participation in the Academy will provide us with feedback regarding our successful implementation of an assessment plan. Similarly, we will detail our efforts in our next Systems Portfolio, due in June, 2013. The feedback report will be closely reviewed by the assessment committee.</td>
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