



January 31, 2011

RE: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System
College of Lake County Innovation Credit 4

To whom it may concern:

The College of Lake County is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). In spring 2002, the College of Lake County Board of Trustees approved the College's participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), a Continuous Improvement model of accreditation through HLC. According to the HLC, the aim of this program is to achieve positive institutional change through a culture of continuous improvement and specific Action Projects. Teams composed of faculty and staff are responsible for planning and implementing the Action Projects.

In 2009 Sustainability became the focus for an AQIP Action Project. During 2009-2010, the AQIP Sustainability team reviewed institutional initiatives related to sustainability and identified major elements and resources to include in our Sustainability Center. The Sustainability Center was established in Building B of CLC's Grayslake Campus. Resource materials were recommended by the AQIP team and a repository of items are now available to access when visiting the center.

In addition, CLC's "GoGreen" website was created to showcase the college's approach to greening the campus, greening the curriculum, and greening the community:
(<http://www.clcillinois.edu/gogreen/index.asp>).

Finally, the AQIP team worked to support the college's participation in the American Colleges and Universities President's Climate Commitment (www.acupcc.org). This nation-wide initiative requires several steps towards greening campus operations and eventual climate neutrality.

The AQIP team consisted of representation from faculty (7), administrators (3), and staff (2). The team also leveraged the college's Environmental Action Committee by providing updates and seeking input on the team's progress throughout the academic year. This in turn provided consistent communication through the governance system as the Environmental Action Committee reports monthly to the Governance Coordinating Council.

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The Sustainability Center Open House, during the fall 2010 Staff Development Week, showcased the resources currently available and collected feedback from guests on ways the center could benefit them, their department, and CLC students. As new sustainability initiatives are launched in the upcoming academic years, the Center will host, sponsor, and facilitate to continue the promotion of services and resources available as a result of the AQIP project.

Creating a connection between the American Colleges and Universities President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and our accreditation processes was a win-win. AQIP projects have high visibility, cross-functional participation, and a direct link to our governance system. Therefore, the results of our greenhouse gas inventory were part of a larger college dialogue that already had space, time, and resources assigned to accomplish the annual AQIP objectives. Also, the continuous improvement framework of AQIP is a natural fit for sustainability initiatives which are based in the belief that we need to find ways to cut down on waste, be efficient with our resources, and improve the way we do business to truly impact the triple bottom line of economics, environmental and social performances.

Sincerely,



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