

Action Line

Join the online conversation Feb.1

You can weigh in on Delta's accreditation document, the *AQIP Systems Portfolio*, beginning next month. Text from the nine sections of the report will be rolled out one week at a time. You'll have an opportunity to add your comments, suggestions and edits in a lively blog.



Where?

The *Daily Difference* is your ticket to enter the discussion. Watch for an announcement of the conversation topic with a link to the report and blog.

When?

There will be a new category posted each Monday with an opportunity to comment anytime during the week.

How?

It's easy. Click the link on the *Daily Difference* page, enter your user ID and password and voila! You are instantly at the site with the report's questions, Delta's answers and the link to the blog. The blog will show everyone's input.

Who can blog?

Any member of the college community. Your name will appear in your e mail address at the end of your post along with the date and time.

Any rules?

Just the standard policies of online etiquette. Stay on the topic. Be polite. Be professional. Remember you work here.

Is it easy to read?

Absolutely. The report is a series of questions and answers grouped together under the headings of **Processes** (the college uses to accomplish its goals), **Results** (that support the processes) and **Improvements** recently made in the category area.



The Flip Side

AQIP Portfolio quick facts

▶ There were 116 employees from every area of the college who served on the nine AQIP committees, most for three (long) years.

▶ Committee members answered nearly 300 questions about **processes** the college uses to accomplish its goals, **results** or documentation compiled to support the processes, and recent **improvements** Delta has made in the nine AQIP category areas.

▶ Delta's AQIP Portfolio will be reviewed by an outside team. There also will be a site visit scheduled after the portfolio review.

▶ Mike Wood, Delta's director of Institutional Research, has been a member of several AQIP review teams. He's been the "go-to" man for inside advice on the portfolio.

College accredited continuously since 1968

Delta was accredited by the **North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)** in 1968, 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003.

The Higher Learning Commission accepted Delta's application to participate in the **Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP)** in 2006. The first Systems Portfolio, Delta's accreditation document, is due May 1, 2010.

Delta's next accreditation date is 2013 with a second System's Portfolio due May 1, 2013.

Q & A



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Answers from the AQIP Portfolio Team

(Responses are summarized from a joint interview.)

Why does the college want feedback on the accreditation report?

Quite frankly, we may have missed something. We want the report to be thorough and accurate. We also want to involve the entire college in this process so it will be a reflection of our Delta community.

What will happen with the feedback?

We will bring all of the feedback to the Steering Committee for consideration.

What type of comments are you looking for?

We are looking for constructive professional feedback. We hope readers check for organization or gaps in information, and suggest changes as big as accuracy issues or as small as editing slip ups. We want the document to be perfect.

Will there be an opportunity to make changes based on the feedback?

Absolutely. That's why we are asking. Even after our May 1 deadline we can use the feedback in the next part of the AQIP cycle. The entire May 1 submission will be put online for everyone to view anytime.

How important is this report to the college?

It is critical to our accreditation and our continued participation in the AQIP process. We want to stay in this program. It is so much better for the college than our previous process of reviewing the college once every 10 years.

What was the problem with the old 10-year cycle approach?

It wasn't continuous improvement. According to Don Halog, it was like your yearly physical. Right before it was scheduled, you went on a diet so your weigh-in would be good. On the way home you stopped at Burger King.

What is the first thing you are going to do after the report is submitted?

Wilson: *P-a-r-t-e-e down! My house. Be there or be square.*

Sanders: *Go for a hike up a mountain.*

Bailey: *Take DJ out for a nice dinner or weekend.*

VandenBosch: *Celebrate the accomplishment, clean out some space in my AQIP notebook, and get ready to start the cycle again.*

