



SACSCOC NEWSLETTER



SACSCOC Reaffirmation – It’s Happening!

The College’s 10th year affirmation is happening now. The SACSCOC team has been hard at work over the past two years, and in particular—the last year—gathering documentation, soliciting input, and writing. In December 2019, the team attended the annual SACSCOC conference in Houston, Texas, to participate and learn about completing the compliance certification report. The compliance certification report is a self-study completed by the College to demonstrate judgement of the extent of compliance with each of the [SACSCOC Core Requirements and Standards](#).



[Requirements and Standards](#).

Using knowledge gained from the meeting, various resources, and the combined help of everyone across campus, the SACSCOC team was able to complete the compliance certification report on time! The completed report was mailed at the beginning of March to SACSCOC for review by the off-site committee. In the meantime, our work does not end. Remember, it takes everyone working together to help make this a success. This means faculty, staff, administrators, and students all play a critical role. So please continue to stay involved by serving on committees, providing input, responding to surveys, assisting with our QEP, and of course, asking questions.



SACSCOC Team Members:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Larry Keen | Rosemary Kelly |
| Julian Beltran | Carl Mitchell |
| Vincent Castano | Maggie Morgan |
| Louanna Castleman | Moneak Perrington |
| Robin Deaver | Charles Smith |
| Charlese Gibbs | Mark Sorrells |
| Kelly Gold | David Sullivan |
| Cameron Harmon | Tracy Verrier |
| Kevin Henry | Michelle Walden |
| Antonio Jackson | DeSandra Washington |

SAVE THE DATE!

On-site visit

October 5-8, 2020

SACSCOC at
FTCC Campus!

*A message from
Dr. Larry Keen*



I am delighted that we have done such an exceptional job in preparing for our SACSCOC reaffirmation. Our team has worked diligently for a number of years, especially this past year, on studying and re-evaluating everything we do in the name of providing an excellent and high-quality education to our students. Part of the process is ongoing improvement in our educational offerings and in the methods by which they are delivered.

We successfully submitted our SACSCOC reaffirmation package for the off-site review. We have also had conversations with Dr. Stephanie Kirschmann, our liaison to SACSCOC, and it has been very effective in terms of helping to guide us in what we have done. We now look forward to having our first meeting with Dr. Kirschmann in June. It will be a virtual meeting and, in this day and time, that is the best way to do it. The reaffirmation team will be on campus in October for the on-site review.

We are going forward with great expectations in terms of the quality of what we are doing. At the same time, we understand that the systemic approaches that we took in our last reaffirmation process over 10 years ago have helped us well. As a result of that, we have refined our processes to a higher degree than we had before, and we should be in a good position as we continue through this process.

I want to congratulate and express my gratitude to everyone who has been involved and engaged with this complex process. This goes beyond FTCC's SACSCOC team to everyone who has had a part to play in this. A special word of congratulations goes to the members of the team for their dedication, their commitment, and their demonstrated expertise in not only learning the new requirements for SACSCOC reaffirmation but also applying solid methods of data evaluation and using that ability to help us make decisions about our present and our future. My congratulations to them all and to the team leadership – Dr. Mark Sorrells, Mr. Carl Mitchell, Dr. Cameron Harmon, and Dr. Maggie Morgan – for an exceptional job. I am pleased and grateful to everyone for their commitment, dedication, and expertise on behalf of FTCC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Larry Keen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

QEP — FTCC C.A.R.E.S.

COVID-19 can't stop the QEP! The focus of our QEP (FTCC C.A.R.E.S.) is holistic advising and helping students define their career goals. Success Coaches will help students define their goals using courageous conversations and career exploration. First-time-in-college students (our Fall 2020 cohort) will take ACA during their first semester where they will use evidence-based career assessment software to solidify their career choices. Coaches and advisors will continue to work as a team throughout the semester to provide the cohort students with academic and nonacademic assistance throughout their educational journeys. The desired outcome is increasing first-year progression. At the end of Spring 2021, we will measure the outcomes of this cohort. The ultimate goal is to scale up and eventually offer these services to any student who wants them.

Even though this semester has been a challenging one, unprecedentedly challenging, the QEP Committee and Subcommittees continue to work diligently on shaping the QEP. Thanks to video conferencing, Subcommittees continue to meet and plan a strong start for the Fall 2020 cohort. The Marketing Subcommittee is working on designing the C.A.R.E.S. swag and will be instrumental in enhancing the presentation we will give the SACSCOC team when they visit in October. The Orientation Subcommittee is creating a virtual and interactive orientation (which was always going to be a part of orientation), but COVID-19 changed the way we do business, and as a result, orientation will also be changing. Our Success Coach Subcommittee is hard at work designing a measurable process for their cohort students that will involve career exploration, courageous conversations, and workshops to help students realize their potential. The Advising Subcommittee is gathering information to develop a meaningful advisor training series. In keeping with the design of the Faculty Foundations Group, the training will be set up in modules that can be completed on a schedule appropriate to program area and approved by immediate supervisors. Last but not least, our Assessment Subcommittee has been reviewing the QEP Subcommittees' proposed activities, workshops, and survey instruments to ensure that they are meaningful as well as measurable.

Keep your eyes open for signs of the QEP across our College. You may be surprised where you will find the FTCC C.A.R.E.S. logo!



Coaching

Advising

Realizing

Engaging

Succeeding



SACSCOC Liaison Corner

A message from Carl Mitchell,
Vice President - Human Resources &
Institutional Effectiveness



As this second SACSCOC newsletter is being prepared, I wish to relay my sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff, and administration for continuing to deliver quality instruction to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The transition from face-to-face classes to online instruction was a huge success and one that enabled our College to continue educating our students—regardless of the virus spread— and to continue to maintain our daily compliance of quality instruction per SACSCOC expectations. The FTCC family could not be beat by this virus because we joined together—as we always do—and put into action what was needed to keep our students moving towards their educational/career aspirations and goals. The faculty members, with the strong support of staff and administration, have set the example on flexibility and esprit-de corps while keeping student learning ongoing. At the same time, the entire FTCC family has generously provided financial support through the FTCC Foundation to help our students who face financial, emotional, and related problems during the pandemic. Many of our students would not have persevered through the Spring semester without the commitment, compassion, and respect extended to them by everyone at FTCC. We extend a big thank you to the staff at the Student Learning Center and the Paul H. Thompson Library, who provided extra student support, coaching, and mentoring during this time of crisis. I am so very proud of each of you for putting into action the expectations articulated throughout the many SACSCOC compliance standards during a difficult time without a decline in student learning and support.

The SACSCOC Compliance report was mailed and received by the off-site committee by the due date of March 15, 2020. The FTCC SACSCOC Compliance Team could not have met this required due date without the commitment of all faculty and staff. When called upon

to help with compliance standard documentation, proving we do what we say, all of you immediately stepped up and assisted the team with locating the required documentation. You did this, without hesitation, with a Trojan-Strong “FTCC family” approach, building on the concept that united, we are a strong team (**T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves, **M**ore). On behalf of the FTCC SACSCOC Compliance team, thank you for a job well done.

The off-site committee review has been delayed for a few weeks due to the pandemic. Originally, that off-site review was scheduled for April 21-24, 2020. At this time, we are not sure when the off-site team will complete their work and provide our College’s focus report but will keep you informed as we get more information on the timeline. We anticipate a visit from our SACSCOC Vice President, Dr. Stephanie Kirschmann, on June 2, 2020. She is coming to FTCC to provide on-site assistance as we prepare for the on-site team visit set for October 5-8, 2020.

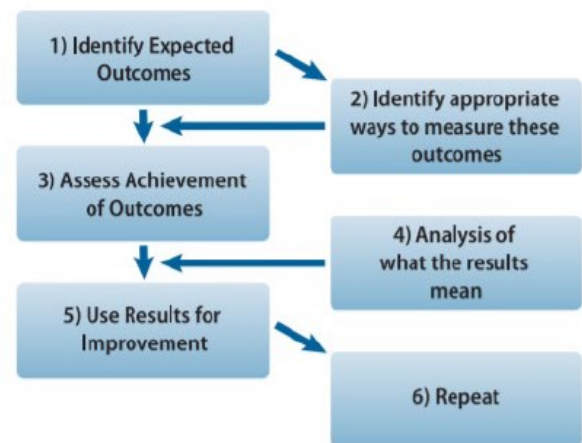
In mid-May, a faculty member sent me an email that read, *“I am thankful to the many great teachers I’ve had in my life, from kindergarten to college, as well as the many colleagues I have worked with here at FTCC.”* That statement from one of your peers speaks volumes. It explains why each of us chose education as our career – to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. While our students may not remember the exact focus of our QEP, our reaffirmation efforts on their behalf, or our FTCC family’s generosity to help them during a national medical crisis, you can be assured that you—as an integral part of FTCC—will be fondly remembered by your students for many years to come. Thank you again, most sincerely and with great respect.



Upgrading Assessment Practices

The College will be undertaking some big changes this fall regarding our assessment practices to better support our culture of assessment. After an exhaustive process of compiling the information needed to demonstrate FTCC's compliance with the assessment standards, it became clear that we needed more robust software. As shown in the diagram below, SACSCOC has a very detailed process for reporting assessment. After reviewing several options, the College will be moving to a new assessment management system from Watermark. Of particular interest to the team is the new system's ability to integrate with our LMS, Blackboard. This feature should greatly reduce the amount of time and redundancy faculty spend handling and inputting data.

Additionally, the new assessment management software (AMS) from Watermark provides a much more robust system including a dashboard homepage to provide real-time updates. Furthermore, with this new system, we will be able to analyze a single learning outcome with just a few clicks, which will provide valuable insight into our program and core competency assessments. This system also includes a few other features to help including the availability for students to create ePortfolios and a way to link our assessment practices to our accreditation standards.



SACSCOC diagram for reporting the process

Be on the lookout for more information coming soon about Watermark!

The General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC) has been working diligently over the past 8 months. Recently, GEAC proposed a change from "Computer Literacy" to "Digital and Information Literacy" for one of the core competencies. Over the summer, the committee will view the Spring 2020 data and present suggestions (if needed) to the Deans to ensure the assessment process continues to be accurate and effective across the college. In Fall 2020, we will communicate any trainings that may be needed and provide additional information on any changes to definitions of competencies and rubrics.

Update provided by David Marsh, GEAC Chair