

# Lawrence Technological University

## Accreditation Matters VOL. I - May 2008

### Higher Learning Commission Mission:

“Serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.”

**Website:**  
[www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org)

### What Everyone Should Know:

- Purpose of accreditation
- HLC Mission
- Difference between institutional and professional accreditation

### **Purpose of this Newsletter**

This newsletter informs the campus community about Lawrence Tech’s upcoming institutional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, scheduled for early 2011. The institutional self-study, which is scheduled for the accreditation visit, is an extensive process of self-study and reflection against the five HLC accreditation criteria.

This newsletter – which will be issued in January, May, and September of each year leading up to the 2011 accreditation visit – provides information to the campus community about the accreditation process, the activities across the institution in support of the process, and about how you can contribute to the process.

### **What is Accreditation?**

Accreditation is a peer review process that assures the public, students, faculty, and staff that institutions of higher education deliver their programs with quality and that institutions are positioned to sustain that quality into the future. Accreditation is a process whereby institutions undergo rigorous internal and external review and consultation.

Institutional accreditation differs from program accreditation. The HLC is one of six regional agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit colleges and universities in a 19-state area including tribal institutions. In addition to institutional accreditation, academic programs may be accredited by independent professional organizations. Lawrence Tech’s academic programs are professionally accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation and Technology, Inc. (EAC/ABET), the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), the council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), and the International Assembly of Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

Institutions of higher education are accredited for a maximum period of ten years. Lawrence Tech was last accredited by the HLC in 2001 and received a full ten-year accreditation. The HLC will next visit Lawrence Tech in 2011. A Self-Study Steering Committee has been established to coordinate plans for the 2011 visit.

### What Are the HLC Accreditation Criteria?

Accreditation criteria are generalized to allow institutions to link their mission, values, and programs with the criteria. This approach supports diversity and innovation while retaining enough clarity to ensure institutional quality. The five HLC accreditation criteria are:

1. **Mission and Integrity.** The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.
2. **Preparing for the Future.** The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.
3. **Student Learning and Effective Teaching.** The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.
4. **Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge.** 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.
5. **Engagement and Service.** As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

### What is an Institutional Self-Study?

Each HLC institution undertakes a self-study: a formal, comprehensive, institution-wide process of self-examination to prepare itself for its scheduled comprehensive evaluation. The self-study report is prepared under the guidance of the Self-Study Steering Committee, and is delivered to the HLC external accreditation team in advance of their accreditation site visit. The self-study serves as the institution's formal argument that it satisfies the HLC's five accreditation criteria.

### Self-Study Steering Committee:

Lawrence Tech has established a Self-Study Steering Committee to prepare our self-study report that will be sent to the members of the visiting team and to the HLC in January 2011. This self-study report is very comprehensive and gives the visiting team a real picture of who we are and how we are fulfilling our mission. The members of the Self-Study Steering Committee are:

Dr. Patty Castelli  
College of Management

Prof. Lew Frasch  
College of Engineering

Dr. Dale Gyure  
College of Architecture & Design

Dr. Steve Howell  
Interim Associate Provost and  
Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Alan McCord  
College of Management and LTU Online  
Steering Committee Chair

Dr. Valentina Tobos  
College of Arts & Sciences