North Park University "Leading Lives of Significance and Service"

Higher Learning Commission (HLC)-Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ)
Self-Study Newsletter
September 2009

From now until our visit in November 2010 you will be receiving a monthly newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed of progress, important dates, and opportunities for participation in the self-study process. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Ritt at eritt@northpark.edu

Updates:

- ➤ In April 2009, a team of North Park administrators and faculty attended the 114th Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). NCA, founded in 1895, is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its commissions, it accredits, and thereby grants membership to, educational institutions in the North Central region: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. HLC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). (Source: HLC Web site) The six regional accrediting bodies are responsible for ensuring that American higher education maintains high standards of quality.
- During the summer months departments across campus were busy attending training on the process of uploading documents to the NPU-Wiki. To date, departments are making steady progress in uploading documents to the NPU-Wiki. This major improvement initiative will allow us to store, retrieve, and search for vital documents electronically.
- The Executive Accreditation Committee decided to move forward with "Leading Lives of Significance and Service" as the theme of our self-study. This theme provides us with a basis for the ongoing examination of how we at North Park are living out our mission. Our self-study goals include:
 - o demonstrating the university's ability to meet the criteria for accreditation set forth by the Higher Learning Commission.
 - o actively engaging all members of the university, its constituents, and the broader community in the self-study process.
 - o reflecting on the university's accomplishments and evaluating our response to challenges over the last decade.
 - o using the self-study process to engage all campus constituencies in dialogue regarding the university's future.
 - using the findings to inform decision-making related to strategic planning and quality improvement.
 - o building sustainable processes and systems that offer opportunities to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the university as we prepare for the future.
- The comprehensive HLC-PEAQ timeline was updated. Please review the attached document so that you can put important dates on your calendar.
- The subcommittees have reconvened for the 2009-2010 academic year and will be busy writing the first draft of the self-study.