

Western Iowa Tech Community College AQIP System Portfolio - 2013



WITCC INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Mission:

As a comprehensive community college, our mission is to provide quality education and to economically enhance the communities we serve.

Values and Guiding Principles:

- *Student Learning*
- *Efficiency & Effectiveness*
- *Access*
- *Diversity*
- *Lifelong Learning*
- *Academic Freedom*
- *Shared Governance*
- *Dedication*
- *Quality*
- *Professional Integrity*

Western Iowa Tech Community College fills a unique educational gap in northwest Iowa by providing residents in an underserved geographic region access to postsecondary education and workforce training. Founded in 1966, Western Iowa Tech Community College has evolved from a career technical college to a comprehensive community college to meet the needs of its constituents and communities. Today, the College offers more than 80 programs of study in transfer and career-technical programs, as well as over 2,000 courses in workforce training, professional development, continuing education, and lifelong learning. The College serves the six northwest Iowa counties of Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Monona, Plymouth and Woodbury and due to its unique location also northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota.

To better serve this vast urban-rural service territory, Western Iowa Tech Community College is a multi-campus network consisting of its flagship campus in Sioux City, two campuses in Denison and Cherokee and two attendance centers in the towns of Le Mars and Mapleton. The College annually enrolls approximately 9,000 full and part-time students and serves nearly 20,000 students annually through the non-credit and business/industry training programs. An additional 1,200 students annually enroll in classes and programs offered through the College's Institute of Lifelong Learning, and over 800 students annually enroll in the high school equivalency program or in English Language Learner classes.

Leadership stability and continuity at Western Iowa Tech Community College were continued in the Fall of 2011 when Dr. Terry Murrell was named the 3rd President in the College's history. Dr. Murrell's first project was to begin the process of creating a new Strategic Plan that would supersede the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan for 2012- 2015 contains the following Strategic Goal and Strategic Initiatives.

Strategic Goal: *Double the number of completers by 2015.*

Strategic Initiatives:

- *Create a learner environment that promotes access, engagement, and success.*
- *Build valued and sustainable community relationships to prepare a skilled workforce.*
- *Nurture a "Culture of Quality" for long-term sustainability of the College.*

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The College's new strategic planning process began in 2011 with the rollout of the President's First 100 Day Plan that included 57 town hall meetings, listening sessions, and open houses that collected ideas from over 900 attendees.

The College's strategic planning process continued with creation of a Strategic Planning Council with representation from all areas of the College. The Council, via a three-stage planning process, created the new Strategic Plan, which was reviewed by the Executive Council and approved by the Board of Directors in June 2012.

The WITCC Strategic Plan is supported by the Operational Plan (housing all the projects to support the Strategic Goal and Initiatives). By using the Operational Plan process, WITCC can align processes and projects to contribute to the success of the new Strategic Plan. The WITCC Strategic Plan is measured and evaluated by the Strategic Initiatives Dashboard, Strategic Metrics and quarterly/annual review(s) of the Operational Plan progress. (8P1)

The College's major AQIP Action Project, "Completion Matters," is leading the way. The goal of the project is to find various ways to "Double the number of completers by 2015". Seven committees in the areas of philosophy, learning, organization, campus culture, all students, transition in--transition out and improvements, involving over 100 staff, faculty, students and community members, are finding solutions. This AQIP project is the latest in the WITCC AQIP Project Portfolio. Each completed AQIP Project has helped the College grow and develop its continuous improvement platform. A complete listing of the AQIP Action Projects, statuses, and results can be found in Category 8, Planning Continuous Improvement.

WITCC's Quality Improvement Journey

In May 2012, WITCC experienced its first AQIP Quality Checkup Visit. Over 150 staff, faculty, and students participated in the Checkup Visit. The visit was a rewarding experience for the college. The Key Challenges identified by the AQIP Checkup Team have been embraced by the College in the following ways:

Key Challenges identified by the AQIP Checkup Team:

- Strategic Planning
- College Communication
- Systematic Process Planning
- Data Driven Decision Making

WITCC Responses to Key Challenges:

- Strategic Initiatives and Goal Training
- AQIP Action Projects
- WITCC Operational Plan
- Data Driven Decision Making

WITCC received its updated Statement of Affiliation Status that states the year of the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation has been extended from 2011-2012 to 2018-2019. Senior Management, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Stakeholders through the WITCC Strategic Plan, supported by the Operational Plan, strive to continue the WITCC Quality Improvement Journey.

Readers: WITCC's driving force for quality and continuous improvement is the Strategic Plan, which is described in detail in Category 8, Planning Continuous Improvement. Therefore to better understand the College's Quality Journey, it is suggested that you read Category 8 before proceeding to the beginning of the Portfolio. All references to New Criteria/Core Components and 2009 System Portfolio Appraisal Feedback Opportunities are highlighted in **GRAY**.