



WATC

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CHAPTER 9

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SELF-STUDY
2014



Chapter 9...

Executive Summary

Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) through the information presented in this self-study has truthfully described fulfillment of its obligations as a member of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Five years ago when the college was granted initial accreditation, a new chapter in its history began. Since the last visit, many events have taken place. A new campus was built complete with new equipment and new programs. Substantial debt was accrued and the college faced a tough fiscal future. New college leadership took over and new directions were followed; enrollment grew rapidly; and while funding remained stagnant, the college has become fiscally stronger. Through all of this, WATC consistently maintained its primary focus; the student and helping them reach their goals. The college and its employees adapted to these changes and continue to prepare the workforce of tomorrow. WATC is proud of its accomplishments and optimistic about its future. WATC understands that to realize its full potential, it must take deliberate, creative, and effective actions in areas where it has challenges and opportunities for improvement. This self-study process represents who we are today, and plan to be, in the future.

Central to all evidence and evaluation provided within this self-study is a deep commitment to educational student learning, and teaching effectiveness across all locations and delivery modalities. The variety of programs, initiatives, and partnerships provide strong testament to WATC's dedication to its mission. Understanding the mission of the college and relating that to its operations in the simplest form equates to workforce development. WATC identifies its diverse constituents and responds through innovative programs and initiatives that bridge all levels of education with business, industry, and workforce development. To support its value of innovation, the college promotes "Give Your Career LIFT" encouraging a life of learning within a rapidly changing society, and fostering creativity, inquiry and practice for students, faculty, administration, and staff. Relating to the diversity of programs, student backgrounds, and employment opportunities, this phrase directly demonstrates WATC's mission and its operations.

WATC celebrates its accomplishments and looks to the future as it responds to the dynamic and diverse needs of the community. This self-study process gave the college opportunities to reflect on its strengths as well as areas of improvement. Evidence provided for the core components identifies both institutional successes and challenges. To maximize its full potential as a technical college, WATC is taking deliberate steps to respond to its challenges in order to increase its collaborative efforts with faculty, staff, administrators, business and industry, and students to continue to pursue and realize a shared vision for the future.



In short, this self-study document showcases the College's commitment to, and fulfillment of, its mission. Devoted to its community, its constituents, and its future, WATC is prepared to continue its evolution as the community's college, responsive to the ever-changing workforce and educational needs of its students and business and industry partners. Its vision, core values, and strategic initiatives, coupled with its resources and leadership, position the college to continue delivering first class education that supports economic development and workforce training needs.

Not only has the college shown that it meets the five criteria for accreditation, but it has also effectively planned for future success by strengthening its culture of continuous quality improvement. The sum of this self-study process – the report, the participants, and the changes highlight WATC's success, both internally and externally. With the evidence gathered and evaluation conducted, WATC respectfully requests continued accreditation by HLC as it prepares to transition to the Standard Pathway model during the 2014/15 academic year. Ongoing affiliation with HLC ensures a future of possibilities and successes for both the college itself and its students.

