



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MCCC COMPLETES ACADEMY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

MONROE, Mich. – The Higher Learning Commission, Monroe County Community College’s accrediting organization, has formally acknowledged the college for its successful completion of the Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning, Dr. Grace Yackee, vice president of instruction, announced today.

“As part of the October 2007 Academy cohort, MCCC worked toward completion of its project, ‘Moving from Course Based to Competency Based General Education.’” Yackee said. “The commitment to the project required MCCC to maintain ongoing interaction with the HLC by way of participating in assessment related professional development activities, regular reporting and updates, completion of an Impact Report, and participation at a Results Forum in the fifth year.”

The HLC is an independent corporation and one of two commission members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the U.S. It accredits, and thereby grants membership in the commission and the North Central Association, degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region.

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The project included total review of general education learning outcomes, development of general education competencies and learning objectives, as well as development of rubrics to measure student achievement of learning outcomes.

The Impact Report includes a detailed description of the project and plans for sustaining the college's efforts in the area of general education and assessment of student learning.

A new coordinator of institutional research, evaluation, and assessment was hired to coordinate the project's goal of expanding current data collection, analysis and reporting efforts, both as part of the project and as part of a comprehensive institutional approach to data-driven decision making, Yackee said.

The Academy for Assessment of Student Learning offers HLC member institutions a sequence of events and interactions that are focused on student learning, targeted at accelerating and advancing efforts to assess and improve student learning, and designed to build institution-wide commitment to assessment of student learning.

The Academy experience is intended to develop institutional culture and increase institutional commitment to assessing and improving student learning.

Participation in the Academy is designed to generate evidence for accreditation evaluations and follow-up. The college is scheduled for an HLC focused visit on the areas of shared governance and institutional effectiveness on March 4-5, 2013. Completion of the Academy was required in order for the college to satisfy a third concern of the HLC regarding general education. The concern was as part of the College's recent 10-year comprehensive institutional accreditation review.

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In May 2010, MCCC received the final results of its comprehensive accreditation visit by The Higher Learning Commission and was granted the maximum accreditation term of 10 years with the timing for the next comprehensive visit scheduled for academic year 2019-2020.

Members of the MCCC HLC Academy team included Yackee; Bonnie Giles, assistant professor of business; Paul Knollman, dean of the Business Division; Dr. Terri Kovach, professor, reference/technical services librarian; and Dr. William McCloskey, professor of English (faculty assessment coordinator).

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