

## Multi-College District Accreditation Project

Two years ago, the LACCD participated in a pilot program organized by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges aimed at clarifying lines of accountability and authority in districts with multiple colleges. Known as the Multi-College Pilot Program (MCP), this effort involved representatives from Los Angeles Valley College, Los Angeles Pierce College, and Los Angeles Mission College, all of which participated in the self-study process during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 academic years. Over this period, members of the steering committees of each college's accreditation teams met independently, and on occasion with ACCJC representatives, to explore issues of District-wide authority and accountability. These meetings led to the creation of a "matrix" of 417 questions, which was then submitted to the District Administration, the Board of Trustees, the District Academic Senate, and the leadership of the faculty bargaining unit. While incomplete, the answers to these questions helped the colleges define lines of responsibility and to respond more effectively to specific issues included in the Accreditation Standards.

In the 2001-2002 academic year, the MCP effort was continued by the next set of LACCD colleges to be involved in Accreditation self studies: Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles Trade Technical College, and East Los Angeles College. Administrative Liaison Officers and Faculty Chairs from the three colleges met repeatedly in the summer and fall of 2001 to compare notes on their approaches to the Accreditation process, coordinate their activities, and plan district-wide meetings dedicated to promoting the quality of the Accreditation effort on their campuses. As the result of this district-wide collaboration, two inter-collegiate meetings on accreditation were held during the 2001-2002 academic year. The first, held on November 30, 2001 at LATTC and featuring ACCJC's Associate Director Darlene Pacheco, offered steering committee members an overview of the Accreditation process and a chance to review the "matrix" generated during the original MCP and the responses that it solicited (appendix I). The second meeting, held on March 15, 2002 at LACC, featured presentations by former members of the original Multi-College Pilot Project and invited steering committees to raise questions in relation to the district's role in Accreditation (appendix II).

As a result of these district-wide coordination meetings, a "Functional Map" has been developed to clarify district and College responsibilities (appendix III). This document addresses responsibilities for all functions identified in the ten Accreditation Standards and identifies whether they pertain to the District (Administration and Board of Trustees), the nine LACCD colleges (Administration or local Academic Senates), or a District-wide body (the AFT, District Academic Senate, or District-wide committees). Copies of these "Functional Maps" have been reviewed and critiqued by members of the Accreditation Steering Committees of each of the LACCD colleges involved in Self Studies in the 2002-3 academic year, and the "Map" itself has been adopted as an accurate representation of district lines of accountability by the district administration and the Board of Trustees. To complete their collaborative planning effort, the district-wide coordination team met again in the fall of 2002 to refine the "Functional Map" and to discuss local review and approval processes for their Self-Study Reports. All three

colleges presented their Self-Studies to the Board of Trustees for committee review and formal approval in December 2002.