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# Academic Quality Improvement Program





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# AQIP at Pulaski Tech

- Pulaski Technical College's accrediting body is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
  - NCA is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States
  - The accreditation program within the HLC that Pulaski Tech follows is the Academic Quality Improvement Program
  - Pulaski Tech joined AQIP in 2008
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# What is AQIP

- ❑ An accreditation process that requires the use of continuous improvement principles
  - ❑ A program that uses systems thinking and is process focused on the future
  - ❑ A program that relies on data and outcome measures
  - ❑ A participatory process that involves internal and external constituents
  - ❑ The foundation is fact-based decisions, working with diverse groups, resolving conflicts, and using quality-based tools to build consensus
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# Key Components of AQIP

- Strategy Forum: Brings together teams from diverse colleges and universities to generate and test new improvement strategies in a creative, supportive environment
  - Action Projects/Annual Updates: Continuous improvement of selected processes that model the behavior of high-performing organizations
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## Key Components of AQIP (cont.)

- **Systems Portfolio:** Report that describes systems and processes at Pulaski Tech within the nine AQIP categories, that emphasizes how the college does business
  - **Systems Portfolio Appraisal:** Feedback report on Pulaski Tech's systems portfolio from trained AQIP peer reviewers
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# Steps in AQIP Process

## 7-year Cycle

1. Strategy Forum – Year 1
2. Action Projects – Year 2 and ongoing
3. Annual Updates – Years 2 and ongoing
4. **Systems Portfolio – Year 4 \*\*\***
5. Systems Portfolio Appraisal – Year 5
6. Site Visit – Year 6
7. Reaffirm Accreditation – Year 7

**\*\*\*We are here.**



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# Higher Learning Commission Five Criteria for Accreditation

- Mission and integrity
  - Preparing for the future
  - Student learning and effective teaching
  - Acquisition, discovery and application or knowledge
  - Engagement and service
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# AQIP Categories

- Helping students learn
  - Accomplishing other distinctive objectives
  - Understanding students' and other stakeholders' needs
  - Valuing people
  - Leading and communicating
  - Supporting organizational objectives
  - Measuring effectiveness
  - Planning continuous improvement
  - Building collaborative relationships
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# What are Action Projects?

- Action Projects...
    - Projects undertaken by members of the campus community
    - Focus and highlight an institution's efforts in undertaking specific improvement initiatives;
    - strengthen the college's commitment to continuous improvement;
    - educate and motivate faculty, staff, and administrators;
    - improve systems and processes that lead to success in achieving organizational goals;
    - provide the HLC with evidence that PTC is committed to continuous improvement.
  
  - Each AQIP organization concentrates its energies on three or four Action Projects at a time that will most significantly advance its goals.
  
  - At least one Action Project relates directly to Helping Students Learn.
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# 2010-2011 Action Projects

- ❑ Improving mathematics success rates through proactive faculty engagement
  - ❑ Development of a comprehensive, customer-serviced based, advisor training program
  - ❑ Empowering faculty and staff through an interactive culture of evidence
  - ❑ Intervention strategies to improve African-American male success during freshman year (completed in 2010)
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# What is the Systems Portfolio?

- A 75- to 100-page public portfolio describing Pulaski Tech's fundamental institutional processes and systems
  - The portfolio covers the nine AQIP categories, describing processes, results, and improvement questions in each category...and shows evidence that the college continues to meet the HLC's five Criteria for Accreditation.
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## Systems Portfolio (cont.)

- Once created, the Systems Portfolio is continually updated to reflect changes in the institution's systems and processes.
  - The portfolio is a valuable resource for both internal and external audiences, including specialized accrediting organizations, state higher education agencies, prospective employees, and other stakeholders.
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# Systems Portfolio Components

- Institutional Overview
  - Nine categories – Each deals with a related group of processes and allows an organization to analyze, understand and explore opportunities for improving these processes. The Helping Students Learn section will occupy twice the space of any of the other eight categories of the portfolio.
  - Self Evaluation – For each category, the college will self identify which systems are strong and healthy, distinguishing them from the ones that present opportunities for improvement.
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# Helpful Websites

- PTC's IR Office: (Currently under construction)
    - [http://www.pulaskitech.edu/administration/administration\\_planning.asp](http://www.pulaskitech.edu/administration/administration_planning.asp)
  
  - Higher Learning Commission (HLC):
    - <http://www.ncahlc.org/aqip-home/>
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# Questions?

