The next two years will represent a significant challenge for Del Mar College. The reaffirmation of the College's accreditation with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will require a great deal of time, energy, and commitment.

We will carefully examine our programs, our policies, our facilities, our services, and our personnel to ensure that every facet of our College meets the standards of the Commission on Colleges, as well as all federal requirements.

This project will require a great deal of effort and focus. But it’s important to remember that maintaining our voluntary association with the Commission is one of the most critical tasks our College faces. Reaffirming our accreditation ensures that all areas of the College are in compliance with the self-imposed standards that we and our fellow institutions in the Southern Region have agreed are necessary for an effective institution of higher education.

It will be a big job, but let’s look upon this project as an opportunity, as well. Part of Del Mar College’s excellence derives from its willingness to re-examine regularly every aspect of its work and to make improvements wherever possible.

Confirming our compliance with the Commission’s standards and executing the Quality Enhancement Plan will serve as opportunities not only to ensure the quality of our fine institution, but to improve it, as well.

The Commission on Colleges requires its member institutions to carry out the reaffirmation process with integrity and accuracy. I know that you’ll join me in committing to an honest, straightforward depiction of our institution, as well as to the correction of any areas of non-compliance that we might discover.

Thank you in advance for your work on this project. I predict that in two and a half years we will be looking back on another successful reaffirmation of the College’s accreditation with the Commission.

Mark Escamilla, Ph.D.
President
Del Mar College
SACS, in a Nutshell

- The Commission on Colleges accredits about 800 schools in eleven southern states and Latin America.
- Every ten years, all members of SACS reaffirm their accreditation with the process we’re currently undertaking.
- Del Mar College was originally accredited in 1946.
- Our reaffirmation effort will result in two products: a Compliance Certification document and a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).
- An off-site evaluation team will review our reaffirmation documents in Spring 2010.
- An on-site team will visit the College in Fall 2010.
- If all goes well, Del Mar College’s accreditation will be reaffirmed in June 2011.

The countdown begins...

Why a Newsletter?

The Commission on Colleges wants reaffirmation of accreditation to be an open, transparent process with significant campus-wide participation.

In a sense, all members of the Del Mar community are involved with this project in one way or another.

This newsletter will provide a monthly update on our progress toward completion of the compliance document and development of the Q.E.P.

Look for the next newsletter near the end of February.

Upcoming Writing Workshop

A workshop for all administrators and writers responsible for responding to one or more of the SACS standards or federal requirements has been scheduled in January.

**Writing for the Compliance Certification Document**
Friday, January 30, 2009
10:00 a.m. to noon
CB 124

This workshop will consist of ideas and principles encountered at the SACS annual meeting in San Antonio and is intended to help writers produce an effective response to each standard and requirement.