

Ozarka College
Melbourne, Arkansas

Response to the Team Report

For the

Higher Learning Commission
Of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

February 14, 2011
Dr. Richard L. Dawe, President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ozarka College acknowledges the receipt of the Final Team Report resulting from the visit of the team to the College on November 15 – 17, 2010. The College concurs with the team's report and recommendation, and prefers the Readers Panel. The diligence and professionalism of the team are deeply appreciated and will serve the College well as it strives for continuous improvement. The team's determinations that the Five Criteria and compliance with federal requirements were met, that the self-study was comprehensive and of integrity, and that previously identified challenges were being adequately addressed are welcomed by the College. In addition, the team's acknowledgement of the shared dedication of the College and the Community to the mission along with its commendation of Ozarka College determination to bring education to the people is greatly appreciated and reaffirming.

CORE COMPONENT NEEDING OZARKA COLLEGE ATTENTION

In Criterion 3, the team points out that the College has not found the optimum method for identifying and assessing program outcomes nor for weaving the general education outcomes into the program outcomes and the assessment process. The College agrees with these summations and is currently including in its yearly planning to review program outcomes and how general education outcomes can best be integrated into program outcomes. An Assessment Academy Team for Ozarka College (AATOC) has been selected by the College and accepted by the Higher Learning Commission to attend the Assessment Academy. The AATOC will serve to lead the College in making the identified needed improvements.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

The College acknowledges the team's identification of the need to submit to the Higher Learning Commission a Request for Change: Addition of a New Site for the planned Mammoth Spring Center. Plans for growing the newest location for courses in Mammoth Spring are underway. As the offering of fifty percent of a program is approached, the College will seek site approval from the Commission.

CONSULTATIONS OF THE TEAM

Assessment of Student Learning

As stated under the above core component need section, the College will review all programs to insure that quality learning outcomes are present and redesign its assessment of student learning to address the new and improved learning outcomes. This process will be facilitated by the mentoring of the Assessment Academy with a team already selected and meetings scheduled for April and June of 2011.

Program Development

The College has produced a potential list of programs for the area and is currently surveying 3,500 high school students to determine projected interest over the next four years. Since the team's departure, one of the programs on the list is slated for approval at the next Arkansas State Coordinating Board meeting. The team's suggestion to research via Internet additional programs to be institutionalized by Ozarka College that are already developed by other institutions is most welcome.

Funding and Financial Resource Development

Ozarka College agrees that acquiring local funding in Fulton, Izard, and Stone counties would assist it to better serve its student population at the corresponding sites similar to the way the Ash Flat city tax helps it to serve Sharp County students. Though community support is great, the challenge

remains of seeking additional public revenue support in an impoverished region during uncertain economic times. The College continues to communicate with local leaders and will move forward when success is promising.

The recommendation that the College reconnect to the Council of Resource Development for Advancement and fundraising purposes has been acted upon.

CONCLUSION

Ozarka College concurs with the report of the visiting team and is positioned to make suggested enhancements based on the report. The College is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the constructive processes of the self-study and team visit experience and looks forward to the Readers Panel report.