

AQIP ACTION PROJECT HLC REVIEW

TITLE: *Implement Program Review to improve quality of teaching and learning*

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

The AQIP project to, “Implement program review to improve quality of teaching and learning,” at Inver Hills Community College is at the end of its first year. During the first year progress has been made in several areas. This is apparent through the twenty-one departments completed mission, vision, and goal statements; work towards curriculum alignment; and improvement of student learning. This stretch target connects with the AQIP criteria of helping students learn. Eight departments partially completed the program review. Departments evaluated, revised, deleted, and developed course/degrees/certificates to meet stakeholders’ needs. Which aligns with the AQIP criteria of understanding students’ and other stakeholders’ needs. Five articulation agreements were developed for guarantee transferability, eight departments participated with the state universities to articulate and align curriculum. The nursing program and online program have been expanded. All of these stretch targets map to the AQIP criteria of building collaborative relationships and helping students learn. As the program review progressed the college realized there were problems with its academic data and to address this problem decided to create an Academic Data Task Force. This adjustment was necessary to meet the AQIP principle of fact-based information-gathering and thinking to support analysis and decision-making. The Curriculum Committee revised its forms to include the needed data and aligned the forms with the learning outcomes and outcome measures. The college has expanded communication with the state universities by sharing student academic achievement and program review information. Inver Hills Community College should be commended for their commitment to this action project and for the steps taken in the first year to get this project moving.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

Extensive internal involvement in this project includes the Curriculum Committee, faculty chair, faculty, staff, deans, program directors, and administration. Broad-based faculty, staff, and administrative involvement is a key principle in AQIP. The college understands the importance of providing faculty and staff with necessary training. Inver Hills Community College should be applauded for their inclusive approach in this project.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

There is a clear plan for the next year’s activities. Strategies are lined out to meet next years stretch goals of 100% program/department curriculum internal and external curriculum alignment, documenting course/degrees/certificates changes in the new catalog, and continued improved data processes. Working with other action projects, collaborating with state universities, and disseminating information on the web are excellent application of the AQIP principle of collaboration and a shared institutional focus.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

As the project progresses, you should be able to identify effective practices. Documenting effective practices for the processes helps realize how people are involved in the committee, how the involvement of these people related to the AQIP project, and how it benefits the college. An example of documenting the processes might be in how effectively the committee operates and

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how successfully they disseminate their findings. The identification of effective practices is critical to the AQIP process.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

It can be time consuming and work intensive but the committee is committed to creating a shared governance system. This is not an uncommon challenge, but the collaborative relationships that are being built will be long lasting.