



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

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WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights." Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

THE MIDDLE STATES VISITING TEAM: PROFILES, INTERESTS, AND ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE

In the previous issue of **FORTNIGHT**, we introduced our readers to the members of the evaluation team who have been reading our self-study documents in preparation for their campus visit on April 1-4. To continue to acquaint the campus community with our peer evaluators, we would like to provide a more extensive profile here.

Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania – a PASSHE System institution. His PhD is in Physics and Aerospace Science, and he has held positions at institutions ranging from large research-oriented facilities to small, predominantly undergraduate minority-serving institutions. He has previously chaired an accreditation team and has expertise in areas related to Academic Affairs, faculty issues, curricular and co-curricular offerings.

Dr. Idna Corbett is currently serving as Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Student Support Services, West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania – a PASSHE System institution. Dr. Corbett's academic training is in Curriculum Theory and Development. She has prior experience serving on a Middle States accreditation team, and is well-versed in the assessment of student learning, academic advisement, developmental education, First Year Experience programs, retention, and student support programs and services.

Dr. Gary Levy is the Associate Provost at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. He has served as a reviewer in the Northwest Accrediting Commission, and was previously Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment at Marquette University. Among his areas of expertise are Academic Affairs, institutional research, budgeting, resource allocation, and enrollment management.

Dr. Cecilio Ortiz Garcia is Assistant Professor at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, with a background in Public Administration. He is interested in academic disciplines in the social sciences, particularly behavioral science, political science, and public policy. With regard to the accreditation visit, Dr. Garcia is focusing on topics related to strategic planning, institutional mission, and institutional research. He has past accreditation experience with Hispanic-serving institutions.

Mr. Edward Schoen is a Professor of Management at the Rohrer School of Business at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, and has held the position of Dean at two Business Schools. Mr. Schoen has expertise in student learning assessment, and is an experienced accreditation team member: he has participated on nine visiting teams for Middle States and three for WASC, and has served on several AACSB accreditation teams.

Dr. Diane Umble, a Professor of Communications, serves as Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania – a PASSHE System Institution. Her disciplinary expertise and interests lie in communication studies, broadcast writing and production. Dr. Umble is interested in issues related to distance education programming.



Mr. Gene Vincenti (retired) was formerly the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; he was based on the University's Newark, New Jersey, campus. Mr. Vincenti lists his areas of expertise as the assessment of institutional effectiveness, strategic planning, budgeting and resource allocation, facilities management, and institutional administration and policy development. He has significant experience in the accreditation process, having served as an evaluator on nine Middle States team visits, and was the Periodic Review Reader for financial topics for two reviews.

We look forward to meeting our entire team in person, and ask that members of the College community participate in the meetings requested by our visitors. The team's schedule is in the process of being finalized; Town Hall sessions open to all members of the campus community are included in the timetable.

COUNTDOWN TO THE MIDDLE STATES SITE VISIT: THE TEAM'S ARRIVAL IS JUST DAYS AWAY

Preparations for an institutional-level accreditation process are lengthy, complex, and multi-faceted. The College of Staten Island community is made up of many dedicated individuals who have contributed extensively to the preparations for the April 1-4 visit. As we have reported in previous issues of **FORTNIGHT**, more than 130 individuals served on Working Groups and the Special Resource Team for almost two years to get us where we are right now. Campus preparations have been underway for many months, with Buildings & Grounds personnel at work on buildings and landscaping. The early spring weather has resulted in blooms and flowering trees emerging a little sooner than expected, however!

The visiting team members have had our self-study materials since mid-February; they were given access to our developing electronic repository of evidence material housed on a SharePoint site in early March. The site, which has almost 5,000 documents in it as of this writing, will be available to the team through the visit. Electronic resources will be supplemented by additional hard-copy materials available in the team's campus workspace and department offices. Warrick Bell, Steve Milewski, and our former Computer Science student assistant Dan Hoizner, have been working for many months on developing and implementing aspects of the SharePoint repository.

After getting acquainted with our self-study document, the visiting team members communicated their requests for interviews to our team chair, Dr. Vargas. Associate Provost Susan Holak and members of the Office of Institutional Research staff, particularly Barbara Cohen, Survey Coordinator, worked to organize the schedule requests. Barbara developed a meeting allocation system, which takes into account team assignments, campus constituents, and room size to organize a schedule grid. The draft schedule, subject to modification, can be found on the College's Middle States website at www.csi.cuny.edu/middlestates. There are approximately 40 meetings and other events scheduled across the period of the visit.

Debbie Mahoney, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs, and her team have been hard at work on hotel, dining, hospitality, and meeting preparation arrangements. Under the organizational leadership of Charles Gomes, College Now Coordinator, who is assisting with the Middle States visit details, most logistical arrangements for the visit have been finalized.

Members of the College community who have been requested to meet with the visiting team should review the self-study document (available on the Middle States website), particularly the sections related to the specific topic for which they have been requested. Also, all meeting members should keep in mind the special emphasis of the self-study, "developing and strengthening assessment and evidence-based decision making to continue building institutional effectiveness." Given the ambitious, complex meeting schedule, it is important to arrive 10 minutes before the beginning of each meeting to ensure timely transition from one group to the next. We look forward to the visit and acknowledge the participation and efforts of so many members of the campus community.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Volume 10 of the periodical *The Fortnightly Review*, published in 1868, describes "a ... remarkable tree, in point of beauty, to English eyes ... the American elm. It is there, eminently, what it is not with us, a tree of the forest, and covers extensive tracts of the undulating country of the Middle States."

"Some Features of American Scenery," *The Fortnightly*, Volume 10, 1868, p. 481.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **April 6, 2012**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

