



# HLC Comprehensive Evaluation for Reaffirmation

## The Trailhead

Rio Salado  
College 

# Planning The Hike





# Remember Your Essentials



 **RESILIENCY**

 **HAPPINESS**

 **EMPATHY**

 **MINDFULNESS**

# Comprehensive Visit Prep = Hiking Prep



- Assess the trail/conditions
- Have a map/plan
- File a trip plan/teamwork
- Physical condition
- Beware of pitfalls (wildlife, weather)
- Proper supplies (Backpack)
  - Hydration
  - Sustenance
  - Footwear
  - Weather appropriate clothing
  - Tools (first aid, multi-tool, etc.)



*Picture Courtesy of Kate Smith*

# The Drive Ups



# The Drive Ups



*Pictures Courtesy of Corey Pruitt*

# The Drive Ups



*Picture Courtesy of Shawn Korman*



*Picture Courtesy of Corey Pruitt*

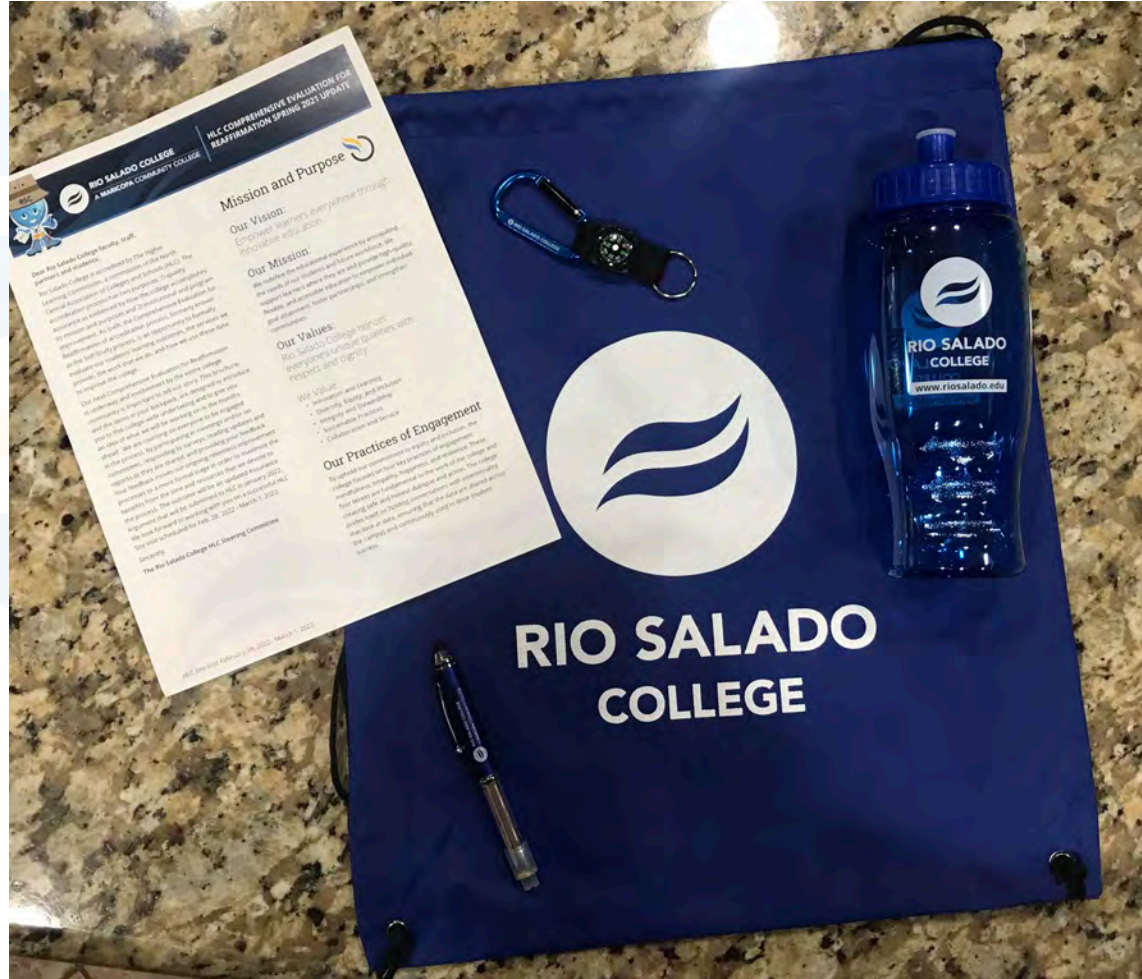
# The Drive Ups







# The Drive Ups



# Quiz Time!



***What does HLC stand for?***

- A. Handball League Championships
- B. Healthcare Law Conference
- C. Higher Learning Commission
- D. Happy Lemurs Care

***Why does HLC accreditation matter?***

- A. Allows student to transfer credits
- B. Allows students to receive financial aid
- C. Assures the public that Rio is meeting accreditation criteria
- D. All of the above



# Quiz Time!



***How often does HLC do a Comprehensive Evaluation Visit?***

- A. Once every 100 years
- B. Once every 10 years
- C. Once in a lifetime
- D. Once in awhile

***When is our upcoming HLC visit?***

- A. January 1 – 31, 2022
- B. February 28 – March 1, 2022
- C. March 28-30, 2022
- D. January 28-29, 2023



*Picture Courtesy of Karol Schmidt*



# Quiz Time!

## ***What is Rio's mission?***

- A. Our academic programs, research, public service, and creative endeavors enrich lives and create opportunities in Arizona and beyond. We develop solutions to challenges and drive innovation in a supportive, inclusive, and diverse environment.
- B. Demonstrate leadership in academic excellence and accessibility. Maintain the fundamental principle of accessibility to all students qualified to study. Maintain accessibility to match Arizona's socioeconomic diversity, with undifferentiated outcomes for success.
- C. To create a world where human potential is realized and we're all working together to create solutions to big problems, so that life in our communities, in Arizona and on our planet can thrive.
- D. We redefine the educational experience by anticipating the needs of our students and future workforce. We support learners where they are and provide high-quality, flexible, and accessible education to empower individual goal attainment, foster partnerships, and strengthen communities.



# Quiz Time!

## ***What are Rio's values?***

- A. Integrity  
Compassion  
Exploration  
Adaptation  
Inclusion  
Determination
- B. Innovation and Learning  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Integrity and Stewardship  
Sustainable Practices  
Collaboration and Service
- C. Student centered  
Integrity  
Diversity  
Service  
Discovery  
Excellence
- D. Diversity  
Community transformation  
Integrity  
Responsibility



Picture Courtesy of Corey Pruitt



# Quiz Time!

***How many HLC Criterion are there?***

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

***How can I ensure that I am ready, in my role at RSC, for this HLC Visit?***

- A. Attend HLC sessions
- B. Participating in All Employee Meetings
- C. Ask questions when unsure
- D. All of the above!



Picture Courtesy of Corey Pruitt

# Open Pathway 10-Year Cycle



Years 1-3

Prepare Assurance Filing



Years 7-9

Quality Initiative Report



Year 4

Assurance Review



Years 5-7

Quality Initiative Proposal



Year 10

Comprehensive Evaluation for Reaffirmation

# What is a HLC Comprehensive Evaluation for Reaffirmation?



## Combination of

- Assurance Argument for Affirmation
  - Supporting Evidence
  - Site Visit
- 
- ✓ Is Rio meeting the Criteria for Accreditation?
  - ✓ Do we have quality assurance and evidence that the college is accomplishing our mission and purposes?
  - ✓ Is Rio pursuing institutional improvement?
  - ✓ Does Rio comply with requirements set by the U.S. Department of Education?





# Assurance Argument for Reaffirmation Steering Committee



## **VPAA**

- Corey Pruitt

## **Tri-Chairs**

- Rick Kemp
- Tristan Marble
- Karol Schmidt (Accreditation Liaison Officer)

## **Strategic Resources**

- Janelle Elias (Interim VP, Strategy and Advancement)
- Zach Lewis (IR)
- Karen Docherty (Evidence Chair)

## **Roles**

- Develop a strategy for Assurance Argument for Reaffirmation.
- Develop and maintain Assurance Argument for Reaffirmation Timeline.
- Review prior Self-Study and identify stakeholders and evidence.
- Guide and assist Criterion Tri-Chairs as needed.
- Compile and publish Assurance Argument for Reaffirmation.



# Criteria for Accreditation

Criteria for accreditation are the standards of quality by which HLC determines whether an institution merits accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

## Roles of Criterion Tri-Chairs:

- Review content from Year Four Assurance Argument.
- Update and revise as needed.
- Identify updated or additional required evidence.
- Facilitate criterion awareness college-wide.



*Picture Courtesy of Kate Smith*



# Criterion One: Mission

**The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.**

## **Criterion One Tri-Chairs:**

Greg Pereira  
Rich Cuprak  
Tamara Cochran

## **Examples:**

- ✓ List of efforts, programs and certificates that meet community or constituent needs.
- ✓ Student demographics and enrollment strategies that demonstrate a focus on diversity and inclusion.



*Picture Courtesy of Jennifer Shantz*



# Criterion Two: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

**The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.**

## **Criterion Two Tri-Chairs:**

Janine Adkins

Gina Pinch

Tafari Osayande

## **Examples:**

- ✓ Grievance policy for faculty, staff, and students.
- ✓ A sample of academic student organizations and clubs demonstrating the diversity of groups on campus.

# Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning: Quality Resources and Support



**The institution provided quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.**

## **Criterion Three Tri-Chairs:**

Julie Cober

Shelley Dennis

Michael Medlock

## **Examples:**

- ✓ Departmental improvement plans.
- ✓ Guidelines and processes for hiring faculty (includes full-time, part-time, adjunct, online, dual credit) that are in compliance with HLC and specialized accreditors, as appropriate.



# Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement



**The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.**

## **Criterion Four Tri-Chairs:**

Angela Felix  
Sarah Stohr  
Ramona Cox

## **Examples:**

- ✓ Program review policy, processes, schedule, and guidelines.
- ✓ Strategies or initiatives implemented based on review and analysis of data to make improvements in persistence, retention, and completion.

# Criterion Five: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning



**The Institution's resources, structures, processes, and planning are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.**

## **Criterion Five Tri-Chairs:**

Rick Vaughn

Maria Bellino

Michelle Gates

## **Examples:**

- ✓ Information about training and professional development for faculty and staff.
- ✓ Evidence of attainment of strategic planning goals.



*Picture Courtesy of Jennifer Shantz*



# Communication/Employee Engagement

## Tri-Chairs:

David O'Shea  
Jennifer Shantz  
Shawn Korman

## Roles:

- Develop a Communication and Engagement Plan.
- Educate Rio employees about the accreditation process.
- Plan engagement activities to onboard Rio employees.
- Team will work in conjunction with Employee Engagement and Resource Center.



*Picture Courtesy of Jennifer Shantz*





# Don't Forget Your Trail Mix!



- Review the materials in your backpack from the HLC Kick-Off event.
- Participate in team meetings with a HLC discussion.
- Respond to surveys/calls for subject matter expert feedback.
- Read updates and reports.
- Participate in upcoming Criterion Trail sessions.
- Participate in college HLC Fall Event.
- Participate in mock visit in January 2022.
- Prepare for Team Visit February 28 – March 1, 2022.

# Questions?



## HLC Assurance Argument for Reaffirmation Tri-Chairs:

- Rick Kemp  
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- Tristan Marble  
(tristan.marble@riosalado.edu)
- Karol Schmidt, HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer  
(karol.schmidt@riosalado.edu)

