



**Date:** May 8, 2023

**To:** Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation Liaison Officers of ACCJC Member Institutions; Other Interested Parties

**From:** Mac Powell, President *MP*

**Subject:** Standards Review Update

### **Standards Update and Next Steps**

ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team are sharing with the field the current 2024 Draft Accreditation Standards that will be presented to the Commission for second reading and adoption at the June Commission Meeting.

The documents shared below include the Draft 2024 Accreditation Standards and the currently proposed review criteria. A “redline” (i.e., tracked changes) version of each document is also included to help share the iterative nature of the process and the changes made since the first reading draft was presented to the community in December.

#### Draft 2024 Accreditation Standards

- [Clean Version Standards Only](#)
- [Tracked Changes Standards Only](#)

#### Draft 2024 Accreditation Standards with Draft Review Criteria and Suggestions for Evidence

- [Clean Version Standards and Review Criteria/Evidence](#)
- [Tracked Changes Standards and Review Criteria/Evidence](#)

Through spring 2023, ACCJC received additional comments through the comment form on the ACCJC website and through virtual Town Hall listening sessions. The comments were extremely helpful as ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team made final refinements to the Standards and the checklists that will support the work of our institutions. The comments and suggestions received from the field are also being used to inform the resources, tools, and trainings that ACCJC Staff are designing to support the implementation of the new Standards. This approach will allow ACCJC to respond to comments about specific items (e.g., definitions of terms) as well as those about broad approach (e.g., implementing the Standards in a multi-college setting). These Standards and supporting resources will continue to be revised and

adjusted based on Commission direction and input from those institutions who have volunteered to pilot the Standards.

As the Standards Review process concludes, I want to thank everyone who has brought this initiative to its current state: ACCJC Vice President Catherine Webb, the Standards Review Leadership Team, ACCJC Staff, the 85 writers and readers who participated in drafts over the past two years, and all of the community members who provided input and support.

### **Proposed Implementation**

To implement the new Standards, ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team are recommending a two-year “pilot” period beginning immediately upon the adoption of the 2024 Accreditation Standards. During this two-year window, institutions may choose which Standards (2014 or 2024) they will use to conduct their self-evaluation. To date, more than 20 institutions have volunteered to serve as pilot colleges. ACCJC Staff have also identified several improvements that can be made to existing ACCJC processes and resources as part of the Standards implementation. In addition to an extended accreditation cycle, improvements include eliminating the Quality Focus Essay, adjusting the size and composition of visiting teams, redesigning training curricula for college and peer reviewer preparation, and consolidating existing guides and manuals into a single Accreditation Handbook.

On behalf of everyone on the ACCJC Staff, I want to thank you for your support of the peer review process.