ACCREDITATION RESPONSE TASK FORCE (RTF) HOLDS FIRST MEETING – THE PROCESS BEGINS!

It was an impressive site to see so many COS professionals gathered to engage in such an important common cause. Thank you to all who have so graciously agreed to invest their time and expertise to be part of the work required for our college to regain its full accreditation status! A group of forty members made up students, staff, faculty and administrators gathered yesterday for the first meeting of the **2013 COS Accreditation Response Task Force (RTF)**. There were no personal agendas, no placing of blame, only the clear and singular focus to earn back our accreditation!

The meeting included in-depth discussion of several aspects of the “Show Cause” order. The group also reviewed the role and purpose of the RTF and the role of the soon-to-be appointed **Accreditation Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)**. The RTF discussed plans for identifying and soliciting targeted technical and consultant support as needed. They discussed reviewing the process and progress of other community colleges who have recently endured and succeeded in exiting a “Show Cause” order. They broke into assigned sub-groups of the larger body and each sub-group will work on responses and action plans to address specific ACCJC standards and recommendations. There was in-depth discussion about the importance of sub-groups reaching out to engage the broader body of faculty, staff and employee unions.

The RTF will meet weekly until at least the end of the spring semester and sub-group meetings will be held as agreed upon in between each RTF meeting. Sub-groups will be responsible to give updates to the full RTF every week including a planned timeline for completion of all standards/recommendations for which they have been assigned. Sub-group meetings will keep regular meeting notes and the RTF will publish notes (such as this eNEWS) each Friday. The COS president/superintendent will meet every two weeks with the ACAC and share sub-group notes, RTF eNEWS updates and progress reports on the overall status of the RTF work. Regular reports of the RTF and subgroup progress will be made to the COS Board of Trustees at each of their regularly scheduled meetings throughout the duration of the “Show Cause” period.

You can visit our newly developed COS Accreditation web page which will be our central hub for all related information at [http://www.cos.edu/accreditation/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cos.edu/accreditation/Pages/default.aspx) There is an incredible amount of hard work ahead but **overall first RTF meeting was excellent!**

Respectfully,

*Stan A. Carrizosa*