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# Assessment Newsletter

Assessment Matters  
@ NLC

Fall 2015 Edition

The Assessment Newsletter is a communication tool used to provide the NLC community with practical, helpful, and timely assessment news, ideas, and resources. The publication is designed to help transition the college from theory to practical applications of assessment. This Assessment Newsletter is produced four times a year.



2015 New Student Orientation



ALAMO  
COLLEGES

NORTHEAST LAKEVIEW COLLEGE

## NLC Mission Statement

*Northeast Lakeview College is a public community college within the system of Alamo Colleges, established in partnership with its communities, that is focused on student success through the offering of Associate degrees and continuing education, promoting engagement in civic activities and organizations, and encouraging participation in cultural and enrichment programs.*

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Content in this publication is generated quarterly from the Assessment Committee, Institutional Research, and the Public Relations Office.



*Judson ISD Superintendent, Carl Montoya (L), Dr. Craig T. Follins, and SCUCISD Superintendent, Dr. Greg Gibson, at the recent Strategic Planning Session.*

## President's Message

Now full swing into the 2015-2016 academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the great year we had in 2015. We accomplished a lot. One significant note is our notification from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that our application for candidacy has been approved for a candidacy site visit. Getting a candidacy site visit is a monumental next step in our journey towards full accreditation. I want to thank the entire Northeast Lakeview College community for its hard work and continued support that got us to this point.

We have a lot of work ahead of us this academic year as our accreditation journey continues, specifically as we prepare for the upcoming site visit. Let's continue to embrace the continuous improvement process as we grow as an institution and look forward to what lies ahead. Everything we do plays a role in our college mission and our ultimate goal to put students first.

I'm excited to begin another year, full of new opportunities, new initiatives, and continued growth for Northeast Lakeview College. Keep up the good work!

***Go Nighthawks!***

Dr. Craig Follins

NLC President



## 4DX Continues at NLC

September  
2015

Northeast Lakeview College hosted its Fall 2015 4DX Summit on September 16. These Summits are held each Fall and Spring and each Summit is an integral part of the cadence of accountability. The Alamo Colleges and Northeast Lakeview College have completed one year of 4DX and this is NLC's 3rd 4DX Summit. During this 3rd round, NLC had 18 teams present their Wildly Important Goal (WIG) and receive an award.

4DX stands for the Four Disciplines of Execution and the idea behind this initiative is that producing great results is done by focusing on one goal or idea consistently until it becomes a habit. Over the course of the past year, many teams have increased efficiencies and demonstrated impressive results by participating in 4DX. NLC's next round of WIG's are currently being launched in preparation for the Spring 2016 Summit.



Dear Dr. Follins:

The following action regarding your institution was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges during its meeting held on June 11, 2015:

The SACSCOC Board of Trustees authorized a Candidacy Committee to verify compliance with Core Requirements 2.1-2.11; Comprehensive Standards 3.3.1 (Institutional effectiveness), 3.5.1 (General education competencies), and 3.7.1 (Faculty competence); and Federal Requirements 4.1-4.9 of the *Principles of Accreditation*.

During its visit, the Candidacy Committee will review the information submitted in the college's updated application and any additional materials which Committee members may request. They will then write a report for review by the appropriate Committee on Compliance and Reports for

July 2015

## NLC Hits Milestone in its Accreditation Journey

In July 2015, Northeast Lakeview college received official word from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that the institution has been granted a candidacy site visit. This is a significant next step in the accreditation process for the institution. Northeast Lakeview College submitted its application for candidacy to SACSCOC for review in April of this year. The Committees on Compliance and Reports (C&R) met recently and determined that the college should be granted a candidacy site visit. A candidacy site visit is one step in the multiple-tiered process to full accreditation.

In preparation for the candidacy site visit, NLC is hosting a series of all-college workshops from September -January. The workshops are designed to provide an

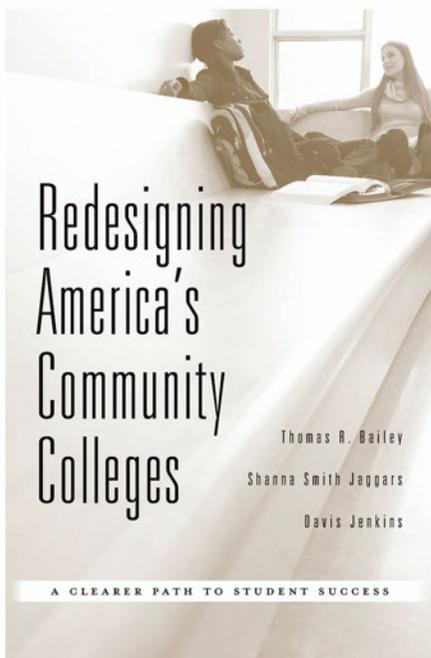
overview of the various standards and expectations found in the candidacy application. NLC employees have an understanding of the institution's assessment process as each department develops and reviews unit plans. Employees also engage in various aspects of the continuous improvement process. These workshops will provide in-depth, cross-departmental information to prepare all employees for the site visiting team. A candidacy site visit is a milestone for the institution.



# A Pathways Approach to College

Northeast Lakeview College hosted an AlamoINSTITUTES information session and conversation on June 22. Board of Trustee member, Clint Kingsbery, and former student trustee, Jacob Wong, presented an overview of the pathways approach, and how transitioning to this guided pathway model will ultimately benefit student success at the Alamo Colleges by reducing the overall time to completion. Student Success and Academic Success at NLC also presented information on how each of these units will implement AlamoINSTITUTES into their respective areas. Belinda Rivera, Dean of Student Success at Northeast Lakeview College, provided information on how the AlamoINSTITUTES would fit into the AlamoENROLL model and overall advising at NLC. Kathy Mayer, Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences at NLC, provided an update on the status of the project, milestones achieved, pending actions, and how faculty will be involved in the process.

Attendees participated in an electronic multiple choice survey following the presentations and the results indicate that the information presented was helpful and that the AlamoINSTITUTES will provide a benefit to students at the Alamo Colleges. Northeast Lakeview College had 79 attendees that included employees, students, and community members. As progress is made with this initiative, information will be shared with the NLC college community.



In an effort to expand continuous improvement into the new AlamoINSTITUTES (a pathways approach to student learning), the main focus of NLC's Leadership Council Meeting on June 9 was on the Davis Jenkins book titled "Redesigning America's Community Colleges." The leadership team has been reading the text as a key reference tool and applying it to NLC's and Alamo Colleges' current practices. Additionally, utilizing this text, members of the council began discussing the importance of the pathways model and identifying best practices.

Visit [www.alamo.edu/alamoinstitutes](http://www.alamo.edu/alamoinstitutes) for more information.

Survey questions and results and can be [found online](#).

To view the presentation that was made at the June 22 Information Session, [click here](#).

*Very informative. I learned a lot about the college's mission and how this initiative will positively impact student success – community member*

*The Ultimate result of this initiative should be better coordination between students/ advisors/faculty/administrators - NLC employee*

**Creative & Communication Arts Institute**

**Business & Entrepreneurship Institute**

**Health & Biosciences Institute**

**Advanced Manufacturing & Logistics Institute**

**Public Service Institute**

**Science & Technology Institute**

*As mentioned in presentation, maturity plays a role in selecting a career path, so maximum flexibility is important - NLC employee*



*Pictured above are the participants from the recent external stakeholders strategic planning session. The session was facilitated by Jeff Wilkie, an external consultant with a human resources background and an emphasis in employee development and workforce engagement strategies. He has extensive experience with strategic planning.*

## **Strategic Planning Continues at NLC**

The Northeast Lakeview College inaugural Strategic Plan was developed as a three-year plan (2012-2015). The document is currently being reviewed, revised, and updated to reflect the next term cycle for the institution. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee (comprised of department leaders, department chairs, college administrators, and college data personnel) met periodically over the Summer to map out the process to update the Strategic Plan. Recommendations from internal constituents as well as external feedback will be shared with the entire college community. Strategic Planning will be one of the main focuses of Employee Development Day on October 28 so that the college community at large can be involved in the process. The timeline bellows highlights important events of the Strategic Planning Process:

April 29 – Strategic Planning Committee met to discuss next steps in the process

August 18 – Internal stakeholders engage in a Strategic Planning Session that included a SWOT analysis and mapping of proposed strategic objectives

September 22 – External stakeholders participate in an open forum discussion to help guide the college in regards to workforce development and community needs for the next five years. Representatives from the ten metrocom communities in which NLC serves were invited to participate, in addition to college leadership, local school district partners, businesses, and universities.

September 23 – Strategic Planning Steering Committee members met with consultant Jeff Wilkie to develop a summary of input from both internal and external stakeholders. Obtained stakeholder information was further synthesized into three areas of strategic interest. Developed interest areas with participating stakeholder insights will be disseminated for college -wide dialogue and feedback. NLC staff and faculty are encouraged to provide feedback on the summary information to their SP Committee representative or to one of the SP Committee Chairs.

October 28 – A portion of Employee Development Day will be spent working across work teams on the Strategic Plan. Focus groups will participate in continued dialogue regarding proposed areas of strategic interest.

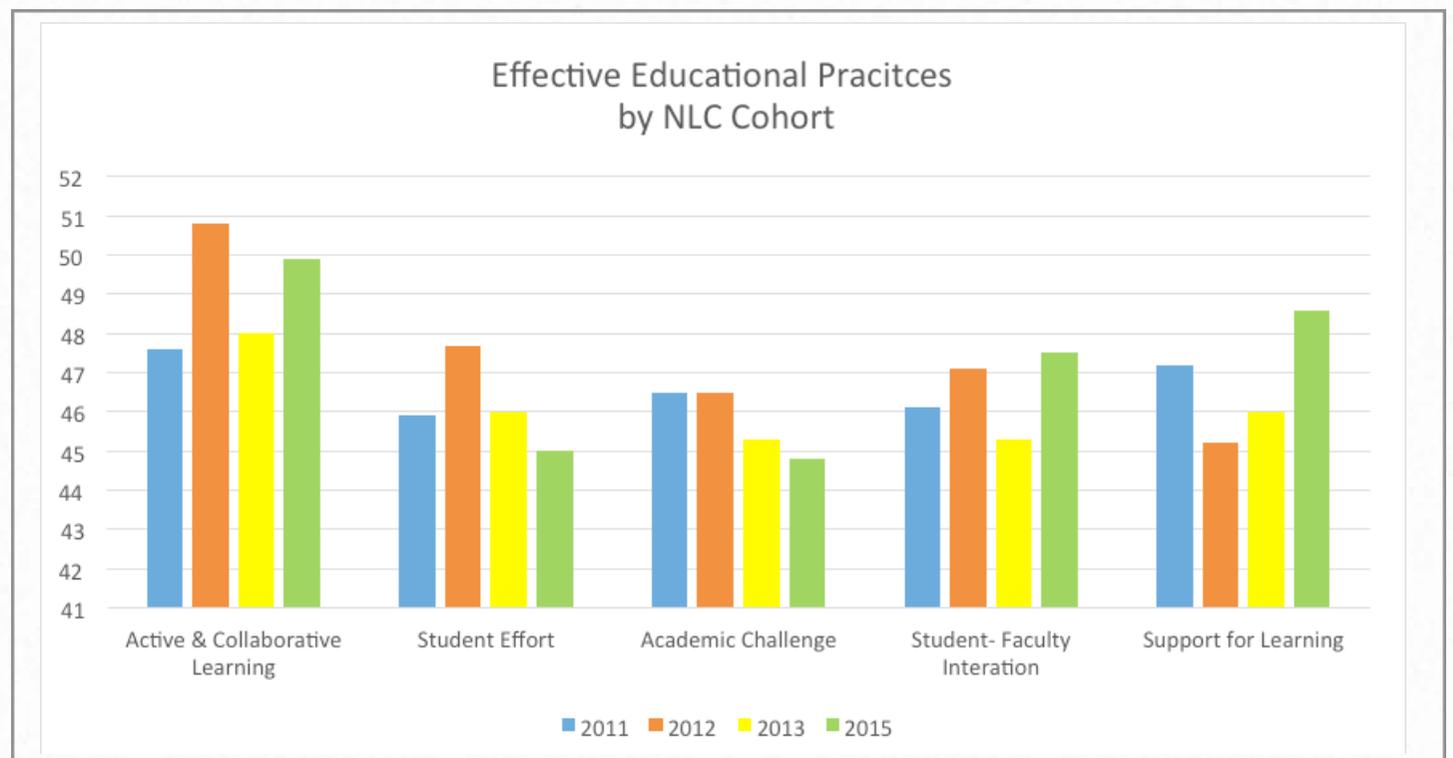
## CCSSE Survey

“CCSSE was established in 2001 as a project of the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.” CCSSE is conducted every odd year at each of the colleges and is a self-disclosed student survey where 1,316 students are surveyed on aspects associated with student engagement which is a gauge of learning and the effectiveness of community colleges. The survey questions measure institutional practices along with student behaviors and can be correlated to student learning and retention.

“The CCSSE survey is a versatile, research-based tool appropriate for multiple uses such as:

- benchmarking instrument — establishing national norms on educational practice and performance by community and technical colleges.
- diagnostic tool — identifying areas in which a college can enhance students’ educational experiences.
- monitoring device — documenting and improving institutional effectiveness over time”.

Source: Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), 2003-2015; September 23, 2015



While the survey is not intended to compare the results year to year, we gather much information from looking at Northeast Lakeview’s CCSSE trends from 2011 to 2015. The college has increased markedly from 2013-2015 in three of the measured outcomes: Active and Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interaction and Support for Learning. While there is always room for improvement, these results are indicative of our continuous improvement process and our mission to focus on student success. A more detailed analysis is forthcoming at our November First Friday (college wide) meeting.



## Scoremageddon II

Scoremageddon II was held on May 15. Its purpose is for faculty to assess the skill level that students demonstrate among our various program learning outcomes. Faculty use this data to create and implement instructional and curricular improvements to foster greater skills among the students in the future. A similar session was held in December 2014. Comparison results are demonstrated on p. 9.

## Faculty reflections\*

**Critical Thinking** - Overall, the results from Spring were lower than the results from Fall. We feel, however, that the Spring results are a more accurate depiction of performance. We suggest that, overall, faculty improve in explaining what critical thinking is. We would like to see a more overt emphasis on critical thinking, and use of the term.....

*\*extracted from a lengthy report that is being finalized. More detailed information will be shared at a later date.*

**Communication Skills** - There was improvement in mean scores for all degree types. All disciplines should be deliberate in enforcing communication skills (perhaps writing across curriculum strategies). One suggestion is that a writing across the curriculum program might even be a QEP idea.

**Teamwork** - Overall Teamwork = 80% vs. spring 74%

Think college-wide, what we all should do, regardless of discipline, based on what we have observed.

### Observations:

Associate of Arts results may have increased due to focus on teamwork



## SCORING COMPARISONS

### Achievement of Program Learning Outcomes: Associate of Arts Students

	% of Artifacts with a Score of 'Good' or 'Excellent'		AA Mean Score		Overall Mean Score	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Critical Thinking Skills	64	49	2.89	2.40	2.84	2.42
Communication Skills	51	46	2.48	2.49	2.41	2.46
Empirical & Quantitative Skills	66	79	2.99	3.29	3.17	3.31
Teamwork	82	77	3.11	3.20	3.12	3.07
Personal Responsibility	55	48	2.52	2.53	2.57	2.53
Social Responsibility	39	43	2.28	2.44	2.24	2.41

### Achievement of Program Learning Outcomes: Associate of Science Students

	% of Artifacts with a Score of 'Good' or 'Excellent'		AS Mean Score		Overall Mean Score	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Critical Thinking Skills	63	48	2.78	2.41	2.84	2.42
Communication Skills	45	46	2.37	2.41	2.41	2.46
Empirical & Quantitative Skills	94	85	3.65	3.51	3.17	3.31
Teamwork	60	75	3.15	3.06	3.12	3.07
Data and Technological Skills	57	66	2.77	2.88	2.77	2.88
Scientific Communication	51	35	2.52	2.19	2.52	2.13

### Achievement of Program Learning Outcomes: Associate of Arts in Teaching Students

	% of Artifacts with a Score of 'Good' or 'Excellent'		AAT Mean Score		Overall Mean Score	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Critical Thinking Skills	59	50	2.76	2.56	2.84	2.42
Communication Skills	45	45	2.25	2.48	2.41	2.46
Empirical & Quantitative Skills	87	73	3.38	3.09	3.17	3.31
Teamwork	79	65	3.12	2.76	3.12	3.07
Learning Perspectives	100	65	3.96	2.73	3.96	2.73
Instructional Planning	43	34	2.09	2.14	2.09	2.14

### In the next issue

- Strategic Planning Update
- Highlights from Employee Development Day