September 26, 2014

The Final Draft of the MJC Accreditation Midterm Report is being reviewed by the YCCD Board of Trustees and included on the October 8, 2014 agenda for their consideration. At the Stanislaus County Annual Fall School Boards Dinner last evening, two Trustees mentioned that they were reading the report, and even commented on the similarity to our previous Follow-Up Reports. The Trustees are correct, the report includes restating how the college has fulfilled the Recommendations that originated from the 2011 comprehensive external review visit. In addition, the Midterm Report includes a response to the planning agenda items that MJC identified in the 2011 self-study. Most of the planning agenda items were directly related to the Recommendations leading to a Midterm Report that has strong and recurrent themes. Dr. Jennifer Hamilton and Vice President of Instruction Susan Kincade did an excellent job of editing the Midterm Report to minimize repetition, while maintaining a comprehensive response to the required elements of the report. My appreciation extends to the Accreditation Council and the many, many individuals who participated in the creation, editing, design, and evidence gathering process of the Midterm Report.

Over the past month, I have been engaged in accreditation also from the external evaluation team perspective. I have participated in two full day training sessions with ACCJC; one specific to serving as chair of an external evaluation team, and one day of team training. These trainings provided an opportunity to learn more about the new 2014 Standards that MJC will address in our 2017 Self Evaluation Report of Educational Quality and Institutional Effectiveness. There is good news! The new Standards eliminate some of the repetition in response that was required under the 2002 Standards. The 2014 Standards also come with the expectation that Recommendations and planning agenda items are addressed within two years of the comprehensive visit. These will no longer be carried into the next cycle of self evaluation eliminating more of the repetition of information that colleges faced under the current Standards. Yes, we have a final draft of our Midterm Report and are planning the start of the next evaluation cycle which will officially begin next fall. The pursuit of institutional effectiveness and continuous quality improvement marches on!

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

JILL STEARNS
President

MJC Reflection