Dear College Family,

The Off-site Report is complete, and the news is good! We had 12 recommendations for additional details to be provided in our Focused Report, which is below the average number of recommendations from SACSCOC at this stage of the process. The Focused Report gives us one more opportunity to provide additional information and documentation before the SACSCOC On-site Visit Oct. 13-15.

In preparation for the On-site Visit, we will hold CF’s First Employee Family Picnic and Workshop on College Planning Day, Tuesday, Sept. 22. This is the first time all college locations will be closed to allow all full-time employees to fellowship. We will mix learning with fun and prizes. A barbecue lunch will be provided.

Take some time to learn about our Quality Enhancement Plan on the following pages. This is a critical element of our SACSCOC reaffirmation, and I’m confident that StartSmart@CF has what it takes to get us there.

I am proud of our team’s dedication and diligence that has guided us toward reaffirmation. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Jim Henningsen, Ed.D., President
CF’s Quality Enhancement Plan

A Successful Start
2014-2015 was a successful year for the Quality Enhancement Plan initiative. We had a stellar visit with our SACSCOC team led by Dr. Mike Johnson. Thanks to the hard work of the QEP design teams, and using Dr. Johnson’s crucial input, the QEP is ready for unveiling as StartSmart@CF.

StartSmart@CF hinges on three major strategies – Academic Pathways, First-year Success Advising, and an Early Support Program. These strategies will help us achieve our goal of improving student knowledge and skills to plan, persist and achieve educational goals.

Strategy One: Academic Pathways will provide coherent academic/degree maps for each major program of study at the college. We will begin creating and developing Academic Pathways for the Associate in Arts degree program. The design and development of Academic Pathways will be led by designated Faculty Pathway Leaders in collaboration with cross-functional implementation teams comprised of department faculty members, advisors, students and other college staff. Faculty members, advisors, students, Curriculum Services, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Technology will all be involved in this process. The Academic Pathways Implementation Team will develop recommendations for goals, outcomes and templates to guide the work of building coherent Academic Pathways for students seeking transfer to baccalaureate degree programs. The Academic Pathways will be standardized while allowing for customization based on individual student needs. Because academic planning technology and programming will be necessary to support our Academic Pathways design and development, a technology solution will be critical to monitor student progress along chosen academic paths. First-year Success advisors and program advisors will help students navigate their academic pathway. Advisors will intervene when necessary to clarify goals, offer options, and connect students to appropriate academic support resources.

Strategy Two: First-year Success Advising will enhance our current new student advising program by providing each first-time-in-college student with a First-year Success advisor trained to employ developmental and proactive advising strategies in support of student learning. First-year Success advisors will meet with students to help them clarify academic goals, identify programs of study consistent with those goals, discuss identified challenges, and guide students to Academic Pathways that will help them achieve their goals. Subsequent advising meetings will be scheduled in the first semester to continue academic goal-setting and planning, identify challenges, monitor progress in milestone courses, provide guidance to support resources, and proactively plan for the next semester. If students encounter unexpected academic or personal challenges, First-year Success advisors will connect students to academic and student support resources.

Shared Values, Practices

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Latin America and other international sites approved by the Commission on Colleges that award associate, baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degrees. The commission also accepts applications from other international institutions of higher education.
Upon completion of 24 credit hours, students will transition to program advisors who will assist them and monitor their progress to graduation, transfer, or career. We will purchase new technology to support the advising experience and enhance engagement for students and advisors.

A First-year Success Advising Implementation Team of advisors, faculty, academic support professionals, and students will develop effective advising and messaging protocols for the First-year Success Advising program. Student learning outcomes will be identified and an advising syllabus will be developed for use as part of the protocol.

Strategy Three:

The Early Support Program, CF’s current early alert program, will be redesigned to monitor student progress more effectively and efficiently and to provide necessary, timely interventions. Our redesigned program will target students enrolled in developmental, gateway and other high-enrollment, first-year courses.

Early in the semester, faculty teaching these targeted courses will be prompted to assess students based on identified risk factors. First-year Success advisors will review and respond to these assessments by connecting students to appropriate support resources efficiently and effectively.

A feedback loop between the student, his or her First-year Success advisor, and his or her faculty member will be created to support and guide the student on the Academic Pathway. New technology to support advising, engagement, and support will be acquired to enhance our tracking, assessment and communication capabilities. An Early Support Program Implementation Team of advisors, faculty, academic support professionals, and students will develop effective assessment, advising, and messaging protocols for the ESP program. The ESP Implementation Team will work with the First-year Success Implementation Team to ensure effective program integration.

By employing these strategies, the QEP, StartSmart@CF, will provide substantive improvement in the lives of our incoming students and support the accreditation standard defined by SACSCOC as “a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined topic or issue related to enhancing student learning.”

StartSmart@CF
Enhancing the First-year Experience

StartSmart@CF
We are having a barbecue!
All full-time employees are invited!
Dress is casual, blanket is optional.

Tuesday, Sept. 22
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Ocala Campus Klein Center

Morning
8:30 Coffee and check-in
9:00 Welcome: Dr. Henningsen
9:15 QEP update: Dr. Giddis
10:15 Break
10:30 Breakouts by division

Afternoon
12:15 Backyard barbecue: food, fun, games and prizes
1:45 Department meetings
3:00 Break
3:15 Wrap-up
3:30 Adjourn

Picnic Contest
Does your department excel at celebrating with good food and fun? Get your team together to enter the picnic contest and win some great prizes. Our theme is backyard barbecue. Registered teams must bring a blanket and picnic decorations and set up on the lawn outside the Klein Center, weather permitting. Judging will be done by your Association of Florida Colleges board members. Picnics will be judged in these categories:

Best Patriot Pride
Most Creative
Most Elegant
Most Original
Most Fun

To register your team contact Marilyn Ladner at ladnerm@cf.edu.
Preparations for the On-site Visit

Core Requirement 2.4
There are many core requirements and standards for which CF must demonstrate compliance. Core Requirement 2.4, states:

“The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement that is specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service.”
- SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation

CF’s Mission:

“College of Central Florida provides access to high quality, high value baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, certificates and diplomas, and promotes the economic, social and cultural development of our community.”

The SACSCOC Off-site Team had no recommendations regarding this Core Requirement. Yeah, team!

How does the QEP support the mission of the institution?

StartSmart@CF supports the College of Central Florida mission by fostering a high quality learning environment with our plan to develop coherent academic pathways for students designed with integrated and targeted academic support.

Guess who is coming to dinner?
Members of the SACSCOC On-site Committee will fly into Orlando starting Oct. 11. We expect 10-12 members to visit us. Hosting the On-site Committee is a key step in the reaffirmation process. We know it takes many hands to make light work; thank you to the following Host Committee volunteers.

- Communications and Scheduling: Dr. Kuszynski with help from President’s Staff.
- Transportation: Debbie Bowe with help from Jamie Clinton and Rob Wolf.
- Welcome Gift and Information: Marilyn Ladner with help from Lois Brauckmuller and Dr. Jillian Ramsammy.
- Workroom Setups: Marilyn Ladner with help from Dr. Larry Kuszynski and Dr. Ramsammy.
- Technology: Ron Kielty with help from the entire IT Department.
- Food: Cheryl Crosby with help from Marjorie McGee.

Additional Host Committee members are Teri Little-Berry, James Manley, Matt Matthews, Holly McGlashan, Cheryl Rice and Diana Ryon. If you would like to assist, please contact Marilyn Ladner at 352-854-2322, ext. 2103 or ladnerm@cf.edu.

The college is on track with our reaffirmation process. With help and input from the CF family we will be ready to show our Patriot Pride to SACSCOC during the on-site visit Oct. 13-15.