

## Deciding on AQIP as a Pathway: Pros, Cons, and Questions

**Steve Spangehl & Eric Martin**  
Vice Presidents for Accreditation Relations

March 30, 2012



**Higher Learning Commission**  
A commission of the North Central Association

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## HLC's Academic Quality Improvement Program

### The AQIP Team:

- Steve Spangehl
- Eric Martin
- Mary Green
- Babatunde Alokolaro
- Susan Devine
- Dumisani Dube, *starting April 9th*

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### **AQIP Pros**...Some quotations...

"If we keep doing what we're doing,  
we're going to keep getting what  
we're getting."

--Stephen Covey

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**AQIP Pros**...Some quotations...

“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

--Albert Einstein

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**AQIP Pros**...Some quotations...

“You’re wasting your time. They will come here. They always have, and they always will.”

--A crusty faculty member I once knew

[in critique of an effort to boost enrollment via a “Meet and Greet” program.]

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**AQIP Pros**...that story...

“All I wanted was a printout of my  
!!\*#!^@!! schedule!”

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**AQIP Pros**...one more quote...

“Quality does not happen by accident; it has to be planned.”

--Joseph M. Juran

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**AQIP Pros**

The Academic Quality Improvement Program is an agent for making quality improvement intentional and continuous.

Values and roots in quality management, TQM, CQI, Six Sigma, ISO 9000, and similar initiatives.

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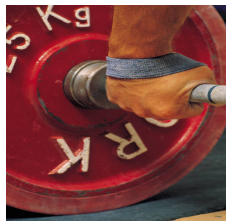
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**AQIP is...**

Like a coached exercise program that is preventative and proactive for institutional health...



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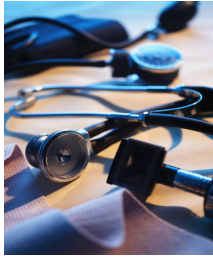
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...as opposed to a periodic physical that inspects for bad things.

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### **AQIP Pros**

It redefines the accreditation relationship from one of mere compliance to one of formative interaction for positive change on individual campuses.

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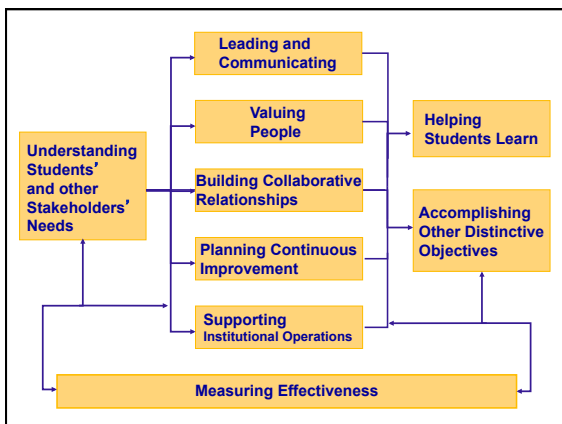
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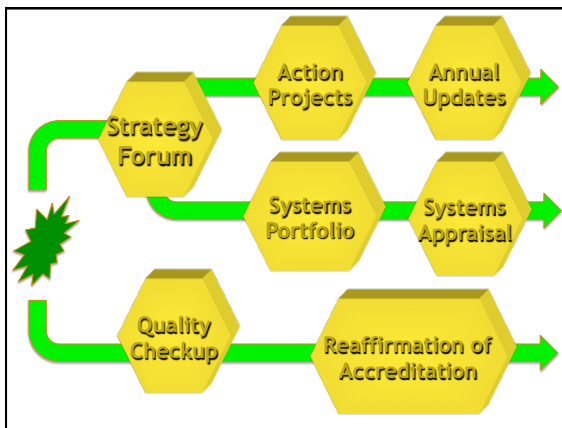
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**AQIP Cons (for many organizations)**

- Requires an institutional commitment to systematic quality efforts.
- Expects broad involvement of faculty, staff, and other constituents.
- Requires lots of time, work, and wisdom.

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**AQIP Cons: Not for institutions that are...**

- averse to planning, enjoy big surprises
- firmly entrenched in the past, content, self-satisfied
- prefer to treat problems, issues, or challenges episodically ("put out fires")
- see accreditation as adversarial, a "necessary evil."

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**The Pathways Model (Fall 2012)**

AQIP Pathway...transition maps forthcoming

Open Pathway...transition maps available

Standard Pathway

Candidacy Pathway



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***QUESTIONS???***



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