

CATYC



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FALL, 2021

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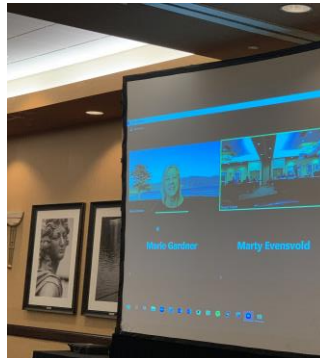
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Newsletter



2021 CATYC Conference - "Innovations in the Heartland" - Kansas City Executive Committee Members: Dr. Chuck Johnson, Dr. Darren Divine, Dr. Alysia Johnston, Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, Dr. Bruce Moses, Dr. Mark Watkins

CATYC PURPOSE

- To work with The Higher Learning Commission in the promotion of standards, practices, and policies for two-year colleges.
- To promote effective communication and articulation of the membership represented by this Council with the American Association of Community Colleges and other educational agencies.
- To support appropriate legislation to improve programs and services in two-year colleges.
- To sponsor workshops, seminars, and academies on appropriate topics of interest where differing views, methodologies, and interests that support the goals of The Higher Learning Commission may be shared.
- To promote research and assist the member institutions in meeting change in two-year college education.
- To provide information and encourage community services among member institutions and communities interested in two-year college education.

The Council on Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) is a 19-state organization with potentially 400 community college members focused on two-year education and accreditation standards, practices, and policies.

MESSAGE FROM CATYC PRESIDENT,

Dr. Chuck Johnson

Greetings Colleagues:

It almost goes without saying that the pandemic's impact over these past 20 months will take a long time to fully manifest. Many of the challenges faced by higher education institutions were not so much new challenges, but ones that we all suddenly had to deal with at hyper speed. And the pandemic has arguably tested America's two-year colleges more than any other sector. Typically among the least-resourced higher education institutions, charged with educating many of the country's least-resourced students, community colleges took the greatest hit in enrollment declines over the past two years; on top of the previous multi-year trend for most two-year schools. With declining tuition revenues, uncertainty in public funding, and without billion-dollar endowments, two-year schools nonetheless pressed on and heroically adjusted course modalities, deployed support for students--which often extended to helping them with challenges far beyond their academic pursuits--and gamely continued to fulfill their missions.

Why is this relevant? Because it points out that, while there are many intersectionalities and commonalities among institutions of higher education, the two-year college has a unique place in the system of higher education--with unique needs and obstacles. It's one thing to convert a graduate seminar to virtual learning. It's quite another to do the same for a class in welding or surgical technology.

Recognizing the uniqueness of our institutions' missions and circumstances, CATYC is a place where our commonalities can be shared, celebrated, and where we can help each other tackle the pressing issues we all face. The Executive Committee, along with CATYC Executive Director Barbara Jones, are committed to increasing the value offered by CATYC membership through the expansion of outreach and programming, including upcoming webinars on topics of interest to the membership, advocacy and promotion of issues that our members are concerned about, regular communication through resources like this newsletter, and sharing best practices at our annual conference each fall. Your suggestions and ideas are not only welcome, but are critical to our ability to serve our members.

If you are a CATYC member, thank you and please let us know how we can create even more value for you and your institution. If you aren't a CATYC member, please consider joining.

Chuck

CATYC President,

Dr. Chuck Johnson, President

Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN

The Council of Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) is the only higher education organization dedicated to serving the accreditation and quality needs of two-year colleges located in the United States. CATYC provides members with one-on-one access to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) staff through its annual conference and through direct Council liaison. The organization provides effective communication between membership and the Council leadership on issues impacting member institutions and to advocate for legislation and policies impacting community colleges. Member institutions are eligible to apply for awards and research grants through CATYC to highlight or develop innovative strategies to better serve our students and support their success.

MESSAGE FROM CATYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Dr. Barbara Jones*



On behalf of the Executive Board of the Council on Accreditation for Two Year Colleges (CATYC), we want to thank you for your continued membership and interest in CATYC. As the new Executive Director, it has been an interesting, learning year for me. We have been busy with adding an organizational newsletter, offering two Zoom informational Webinars for members, participating in the HLC Annual Virtual Conference last spring in panel presentations on cocurricular assessment and by offering a virtual networking session at HLC. We were pleased that our membership participated in these activities and held steady during this past challenging year. THANK YOU.

We were excited to be able to convene our Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO this past September – masked and socially distanced. We had some wonderful presentations related to accreditation, assessment, cocurricular assessment, innovation, and more. Our annual awards expanded to include a new one for Innovative Practices. We also initiated a new CATYC Development Committee with representatives for the 19 states involved in CATYC. You may hear from them in your state in the future. You can learn more about our conference in the newsletter. Please be sure to mark your calendars for our 2022 Annual Conference to be held on September 25-27 in Indianapolis, IN at the downtown Hilton Hotel.

As we continue to grow and expand the offerings of CATYC, we need your help, participation, and assistance. We exist to support you, your staff, and institution in your efforts related to accreditation, assessment, and policies and practices. If you have any suggestions for professional development, activities, advocacy, or our annual conference, please be sure to contact me. Working together, we hope to make the organization stronger and more beneficial to our member institutions.

Barbara

2021 CATYC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**“Innovation in the Heartland,”
September 12-14, 2021, Kansas City, MO**

The 2021 CATYC Conference in Kansas City went very well, being masked and socially distanced. We had 75 registrants representing 12 of 19 states in CATYC. We had 3 vendors who provided much helpful information. Thanks again to eLumen, Anthology, and Great Western Dining Service.

We were welcomed by Kansas City Kansas Community College, President, Dr. Greg Mosier and Johnson County Community College, Vice President, Dr. Mike Neal. The two-day conference included 11 interesting sessions, helpful and timely updates from Dr. Karen Solomon, HLC VP and Chief Information Officer, as well as well-deserved recognitions and awards. We had time for networking and best practice sharing, as well as for some great Kansas City BBQ! The silent auction helped to raise \$250 for

the Research Grant award. We had 9 individuals to sign up to represent two-state regions in the 19 CATYC states on the Development and Communications Committee. They will help to be CATYC Ambassadors in the states they represent.

We send our thanks to Dr. Alysia Johnson and her Fort Scott Community College team for their AV and technology support. Also, special thanks to Megan Fugate, CATYC Executive Assistant, for pulling the whole conference together once again! It was an educational and action-packed conference. We hope you all learned much, picked up some helpful contacts and accreditation tips, and enjoyed your time with peers. We look forward to your attendance and participation in the conference next year in Indianapolis.

CONFERENCE AWARDS

2021 Legacy Award Recipient, *Dr. Karen Solomon*



We are excited to recognize Dr. Karen J. Solomon, HLC Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer, as the **2021 CATYC Legacy Award Recipient**. She has been CATYC's liaison with HLC for over 15 years. She regularly presents HLC updates during the CATYC Annual Conferences and is our point of contact for the HLC Conference and any needed communication. She has been a supporter, resource, and good friend of CATYC for many years.

As many of you know, Dr. Solomon works with a portfolio of member institutions and is the Director of the Standard Pathway, one of HLC's two options institutions have for maintaining accreditation. Since 2016, she has been leading HLC's future-focused grant initiatives on innovation, student success, and quality awareness. She holds an Ed.D. in Adult and Continuing Education from Northern Illinois University with a focus on adult learners and educational technology.

2021 Innovation Award Recipient, Ivy Tech Community College – receiving award: *Gwenn Eldridge Assistant Vice President, Academic Transitions & Support*

Project Description Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana's community college system, serves more than 100,000 students per year, including 60,000 dual credit students. In recent years, the college has renewed its focus on student success and has launched new initiatives that focus on increasing success rates and enhancing the student experience. One such initiative is a focus on multiple measures placement and providing opportunities for students to have agency in how they enter the college. **Knowledge Assessment** is part of the college's holistic placement approach that provides students with the option of participating in a low-stakes assessment



Upcoming CATYC Events/Activities

- **CATYC Research Grant proposals:** due January 31, 2022
- **CATYC Zoom Webinar -** February 9, 2022; 1pm
- **CATYC 2022 Conference Proposals** due: March 18, 2022
- **HLC Conference, “Evolving Together, ”** April 1-5, 2022 in Chicago
- **CATYC Networking session at HLC Conference:** Tentative: April 3rd, 4:00-6:00P
- **CATYC 2022 Innovation Award** application due April 16, 2022

that is aligned with their program of study. Holistic placement includes and expands the college’s multiple measures assessment that has been in practice for several years. Early pilot data indicated that the students who participated in low-stakes assessment and/or self-placement had similar or even higher success rates than students who placed via other methods.

When campuses closed in March 2020, the college was able to scale Knowledge Assessment, virtually, to all 18 campuses across the state without an interruption in serving students placement needs. In. The holistic placement initiative at Ivy Tech addresses the challenge that students from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds face when they enter college. They come to college with a dream of a better life but are often intimidated by college processes and requirements. When students learn they can decide how they will start their college journey, they feel empowered and are more confident that they belong and that they can succeed in pursuing a college degree. While some students choose to take entry-level courses, others participate Knowledge Assessment, which enables them to refresh on content and to enroll in the college-level course that they need for their major.

2019-2021 Research Grant Recipient, *Dr. Lada Gibson-Shreve, Stark State College*

In 2016, Stark State College (SSC) deployed the AQIP Action Project, “Establishing a Professional Development Program to Enhance Teaching and Learning,” in response to a college survey which identified the need for more faculty development. That project successfully launched a Council for the Oversight of Online Faculty Development Courses. The Council oversees online professional development course development and delivery. The \$1500 research grant award from CATYC allowed the Council to carry out its charge by using the award to pay 3 faculty members to develop a course and to pay three faculty members to deliver courses in 2020.



To promote student success in co-requisite English courses and students’ educational pathways, a few Stark State English faculty piloted a revised approach to the Writing Workshop course assignments – Writing Workshop Notes (WWN). Previously, the assignments consisted of students writing about their college-level English course; faculty sought to make a change due to declining pass rates and a ways to better help students. Through the faculty-driven revisions to the WWN, the pilot consisted of students writing about topics that will help them in their other classes and future careers, such as growth mindset and procrastination. The WWN revisions align with three Criteria for Accreditation: 3.B, 3.C., and 3.D. The piloted course pass rates increased significantly, so the English faculty have plans to implement the revised approach to WWN in all sections of the course.

DR GEORGE KNOX - RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS

CATYC is seeking proposals to assist member colleges with innovative solutions to Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation Criteria (including Core Components), Assumed Practices, or Federal Compliance.

In the project proposal please clearly identify:

- Criteria the proposed project poses to address (including specific Core Components) OR
- Assumed Practices the proposed project poses to address OR
- Federal Compliance the proposed project poses to address OR

- Open or Standard Pathway quality initiative the proposed project poses to address

The components of the proposal should include:

- Brief narrative of the project need
- Description of the proposed project goals and measurable objectives
- Timeline of activities as they relate to the objectives including anticipated start and completion dates and who is responsible for each activity.
- Project budget (CATYC will fund projects up to \$1,500.00)

The recipient of the CATYC grant will be required to attend and present the findings at CATYC's annual meeting held in September of 2022 or 2023, depending on the project timeline.

****Proposal application available on www.catyc.com EVENTS tab. Please submit your proposal electronically to Megan Fugate at meganf@labette.edu no later than January 31, 2022***

**** Submit clarifying questions to brjones079@gmail.com***



OUTGOING CATYC PRESIDENT, Dr. Alysia Johnston, President Fort Scott College, Fort Scott, Kansas - recognized for her ongoing service and support to CATYC by Incoming CATYC President, Dr. Chuck Johnson, President, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN. **THANK YOU, Alysia!**

SAVE THE DATE for future CATYC Conferences!

Please join us in vibrant downtown Indianapolis, the racing capital of the world, for a great conference, featuring updates from D.C., HLC, and for the best ideas and innovations among our peers. All attendees will have the chance for a reception and tour of the Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center in Indianapolis, where you can sit in the cockpit of a Boeing 737, or try your hand at a safe landing in one of the flight simulators.



2022: Indianapolis, Indiana-September 25-27

- Hilton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites

2023: Phoenix, Arizona - September

2024: Michigan – September

HLC UPDATES

Important Note for Institutions

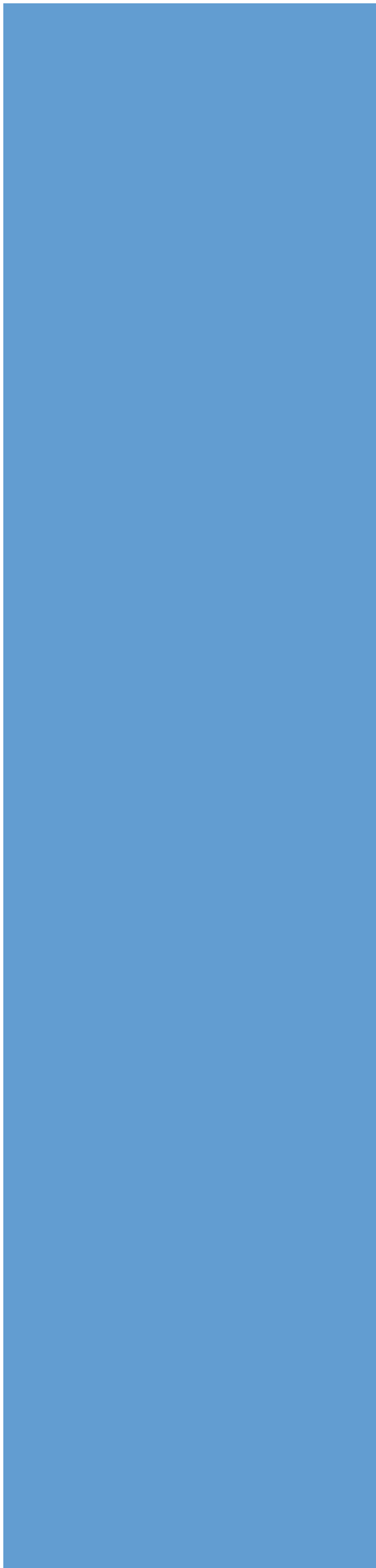
- For institutions that have not been placed on a sanction or under a Show-Cause order since July 1st 2020, much of the following requires notification to HLC (within 30 days); in some cases approval might be required according to HLC policy
- For institutions that were placed on a sanction or under a Show-Cause order since July 1st 2020 (and for three years after their sanction is removed)

Distance Education Requirements- HLC's requirements for distance education offerings and its definitions of distance education courses and programs have been updated to reflect new federal requirements for approval of DE programs. If institutions are not approved for the highest stipulation level for distance education offerings, they should review their offerings and apply for the appropriate level of HLC approval.

New Degree Programs – with new programs, complete New Degree Program Screening Form to determine whether HLC notification or approval is required.

Changes to Existing Academic Programs – when changing existing programs, complete Screening Form for Changes to Existing Academic Programs to determine whether HLC notification or approval is required.

- A Change in an Existing program's method of delivery. Examples: Changing a program from in-person to distance education, increase or decrease in CBE programs, etc.
- Changes to Content and/or Credit Hours



An aggregate change of 25 percent or more of the clock hours, credit hours, or content of a program since the agency's most recent accreditation review requires notification or an application depending on institutional status. Content is **NOT**;

- New course name
- Change of book assigned
- Length of semester
- Change of schedule, assessments, requirements, institutional policies on grading, honesty, etc.
- Department reorganization/name change

SUGGESTED READINGS FROM HLC

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES UPDATE :

<https://www.hlcommission.org/Publications/Leaflet/September-2021/2021-substantive-change-updates.html>

<https://www.hlcommission.org/Accreditation/substantive-change.html>.

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CATYC Membership

Thank you for being a member of CATYC. It has been a wonderful source of professional development, networking, and advocacy related to regional accreditation for many of our community colleges for over 75 years. If your institution has **renewed your membership** this year – Thank you! If not, please remember to send your renewal **to: Megan Fugate, CATYC, 200 South 14th Street, Parsons, KS 67357**. Also, please tell your peers of the value of our organization. We continue to strive to keep our dues affordable because we understand the ongoing budget challenges our community colleges face every day.

CATYC Executive Committee

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