



theRPgroup

Research • Planning • Professional Development
for California Community Colleges

Transcript of RP Group Twitter Q and A

Guest: Richard Winn

Date: 8/2/2017

Key

Yellow = ACCJC/President Richard Winn

Green = B. Pacheco

No color = The RP Group

Posts starting with @ = chat participants

Please note, this transcript does not include every “like,” “retweet,” or “tweet.” It also does not reflect the exact chronological order of the chat, but is designed to capture the most significant content of the Q and A.

It also includes “bonus” questions and answers that an hour-long twitter chat could not accommodate. They are at the very end of the transcript.

Because we will be using a different hashtag in the future, the hashtag used for this Q and A has been removed from the transcript to avoid confusion, except in those instances it is necessary.

#TheRPGroupChat is our new and improved chat hashtag! Please use this hashtag for all future chats!

Please email Director of Communications Olivia Loy at oloy@rpgroup.org with any questions. Thank you, kindly.

Pre-Chat

In just a few minutes we will begin our Chat w/ Pres Winn from @accjc_wasc on #accreditation! 11am!

We want to give our followers a “high volume tweet” warning as we are about to enter a chat on #accreditation.

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Special thanks goes out to #accreditation expert Bob Pacheco @bobpach3co who helped us formulate the questions.

Glad to be here...it's an exciting time for #communitycollege and #highered #research professionals.

These questions were formulated based on my work with #accreditation and on the conversations w/ colleagues in #highered.

Also, huge thanks to #ACCJC President Winn who has devoted much time to this endeavor...

Chat Welcome and Intro

Welcome to our first Chat! Thank you for joining us today w/ Pres. Richard Winn from @accjc_wasc on the future of #accreditation.

Please say "hi" + introduce yourself... and welcome!

We give a warm welcome to newly-appointed #ACCJC Pres. Dr. Winn- Thank you for your time today + in preparing for this Chat.

It's a pleasure to be here + get the opportunity to talk to this community. Please feel free to follow us at @accjc_wasc.

Yes, you can now follow the #ACCJC and Winn at @accjc_wasc. #Accreditation

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A few notes and tips on our Chat...

Go here for instruction on how this chat works + remember to always include [the hashtag] in your tweet to stay in conversation.

Many questions + answers in the Chat have multiple parts due to length. We will ask the entire question + then...

Pres. Winn will respond w/ entire answer. We will leave 2-3 min in b/w for comments. Last half = your questions.

We will respond to those we can!

Ok, let's begin the Chat on #accreditation w/ Pres. Winn of #ACCJC!

Questions/Answers

Q1. In your time at #ACCJC, you have taken great steps to build relationships w/ colleges/etc.. What's your stance on this?

A1. All quality improvement work is mediated via relationships, characterized by trust, mutual openness, a spirit of helpfulness

Q2. What role do you see orgs like RP Group in working w/ #ACCJC to get info to the field + help identify issues that bubble up?

A2. No perspective or opinion can afford to be rejected; no voice un-heard. Implicit safety must be ensured to address issues

A2.1 Active collab on shared commitments to #studentsuccess: meetings among leaders; workshops, attending each other's events

A2.2 We're creating a comprehensive edu. + prof. dev. plan that takes into account offerings by other agencies like RPGroup

Q3. Share w/ us various types of reaffirmation colleges can now receive? 18month, 7year w/ 18month follow-up, 7year affirmation

Q3.1 What can #colleges expect when receiving one of these #reaffirmation designations? #Accreditation

Q3.2 From a review of recent action letters/reports, colleges can be found to not meet some standards + still be reaffirmed

A3. 18month reaffirmation could have been better communicated. Reviews w/ easily solved issues=now 7years w/ report

A3.1 We're going to make clear that reaffirmation = 7years even if report is required in 18months to demonstrate compliance

A3.2 Shorter period of reaffirmation is for more serious noncompliance issues, eg. student learning threatened or \$ instability

Q4. The Policy on Commission Actions describes various types of sanctions #colleges can receive. #Accreditation

Q4.1 Could you share examples of level of noncompliance that would warrant each level of penalty?

A4. We're writing rubric to guide teams + Commission on what areas of noncompliance should lead to sanction + at what level

A4.1 Concept of “punishment” is inaccurate. Sanctions are to get #college attention, rally resources to address/solve problem.

A4.2 Most urgent concerns: What threatens #college sustainability, student learning experience; or ignoring prior #ACCJC actions

Q5. The number + gravity of sanctions levied against #colleges has fallen in last few cycles... #Accreditation

Q5.1 What is Commission’s view on role that a sanction plays in helping #colleges move from noncompliance to reaffirmation?

A5. This is partly an expression of a philosophy of #accreditation: To demand compliance or collaborate in quality improvement?

A5.1 Current Commissioners appear ready to use sanctions more strategically or when clearly the necessary option.

A5.2 Some interpret the fed 2year rule (become compliant in 24months or face termination) as requiring urgent/heavy action

A5.3 This may have been aspect of prior heavy use of sanctions. Now, colleges are more ready to get values in the standards

A5.4 My philosophy: Better to educate, inform, guide, share good practices to achieve enduring change, than to sanction.

Q6. Many #colleges fear being overly forthright in self-evaluations for fear it will open the institution up for a sanction.

Q6.1 Yet, POC actions seems to foster openness + seems to encourage #colleges to share attempts to become #compliant.

Q6.2 Could you shed some light on this? #Accreditation

A6. The goal is insightful embrace of the principles encased in a Standard. Fear of a “gotcha” gets in the way real change.

A6.1 American champion of quality Edwards Deming: “Take the fear out of the system!” Fear drives candor + evidence underground

A6.2 We’re training teams to express this spirit in conducting reviews, to make it safe for a #college to be honest.

A6.3 ACCJC relies on findings of team at time of their visit; assertions of post-visit changes must be limited + verifiable.

Q7. A big concern for #colleges is the identification of institution-set standards. #Accreditation

Q7.1 There are differing degrees of granularity of explanation on the topic in... #Accreditation

Q7.2 Eligibility Requirements, Standard I.B.3 + Checklist for Compliance. #Accreditation

Q7.3 Eg. Checklist indicates standards should be set for each instructional program but lists only CTE indicators as examples

Q7.4 What would good practice be when setting standards at program level for all programs, not just occupational fields?

A7. So far, Checklist strikes me as too granular if used as prescriptive rather than illustrative of what team checks.

A7.1 History lesson: Some at US Dept. of Ed pushing for accreditors to set "bright line standards" for all colleges regardless

A7.2 Accreditors pushed compromise: Let the college set its own standards "appropriate to its mission" rather than ACCJC

A7.3 "Weighing the pig doesn't fatten the pig." Just collecting #data doesn't help performance. What data works best for the college?

Q8. Many #communitycolleges have their own accountability schemes using metrics set by state legislatures... #Accreditation

Q8.1 Yet Fed. #accreditation data requirements definition vary + result in duplicate work + confusion for researchers.

Q8.2 Are there ways to align expectations of accrediting bodies/state gov. to help colleges better measure progress on goals?

A8. We've begun conversations w/ RPGroup, IEPI, others, about alignment of achievement data to address these valid concerns

A8.1 Also of concern: Partially relevant data used by feds in making judgments about #communitycollege effectiveness.

A8.2 We need to stand together! #Accreditation

That was our last question...Now it's open to participant questions!

Participant Questions and Responses and ACCJC/Winn Responses

@tnguyen_tim: Looking forward to hearing about #accreditation at the @ 11am

@aalheorg: Principle #2 from "Nine Principles of Good Practice for Assessing Student Learning" <https://t.co/dko0GgAcPD>

@stacyateeters: I know I'm excited to geek out about #accreditation this morning during the #RPGGroupChat!

@stacyateeters: @accjc_wasc, RE: Q2.2 Does this include considering working @CCC_IEPI & leveraging models like their IEPI Peer Resource Teams?

ACCJC: @stacyateeters RE: Q2.2 We are active with IEPI leaders to find our best way to contribute to common goals.

@stacyateeters:- For those of us involved in #accreditation efforts at our campuses, do you have suggestion for reframing conversations (1/2)

@stacyateeters:.to make sure conversations are about students & quality improvement, not just compliance? @accjc_wasc (2/3)

@stacyateeters: - What can we start doing now to support this mentality shift? @accjc_wasc (3/3)

ACCJC: @stacyateeters Let's talk about a training event at your campus. Feel free to call me. #RPGGroupChat

@alanraze: Greetings. Alan Raze, Instructor at #FresnoCityCollege. My next tweet will be a question.

@alanraze: re: Q3: It asks abt. "reaffirmation designations." Is "accreditation" being redefined or have designations existed all along?

ACCJC: @alanraze Since no "partial" accreditation just "reaffirmed w/ sanction is added. #Accreditation remains under sanction

@TerrenceWillett: We are to "use" fed's College Scorecard but determine own set standards. Any examples of cnx of CS and set standards?

ACCJC: @TerrenceWillett Standards should be meaningful to college + its mission/demographics. Do they prompt internal dialogue?

@stacyateeters: Thank you @accjc_wasc President Winn & @TheRPGGroup for hosting today's great #RPGGroupChat about the future of #accreditation!

@Aeron100: @TheRPGGroup #RPGGroupChat is a cool idea and I think it may be a good venue for crowd source problem solving and act as a #new listserv option

@stacyateeters: Is there a plan in the works for another #RPGGroupChat sometime soon? And do you have any teasers for future topics?

The RP Group: @stacyateeters We plan to do more of these in the future, though each may vary slightly in concept/format and details. Stay tuned!

Wrap-Up Posts

Ok, folks... that's a wrap for this session today!

Huge thanks again to Pres. Winn @accjc_wasc + B. Pacheco @bobpach3co for their time + efforts!

Also, please let us know how we can improve this for next time!

Additional Questions

Q9. A concern we see in the field = variation in team preparedness + perspective during visits.

Q9.1 Before, there was confusion about consistency in award of reaffirmation/ levying of sanctions. How will you improve this?

A9. We're working on a decision rubric to increase consistency on when to apply a sanction; for both teams + the Commission.

A9.1 Team training/Commissioner orientation (new/continuing) are addressing this. Experienced team leads are helping training

Q10. Commission has suggested 25K words +/- for length of an ISER + colleges worry about not being inclusive enough...

Q10.1 What guidance can you give to colleges about the length of a good self-evaluation report? #Accreditation #HigherEd

A10. Seeking to take the fear out, to mitigate the impulse for #data dumps or encyclopedic narrative. Eventually, an online portal w/ limits.

Q11. There has been much discussion re the future of learning outcomes assessment in the standards.

Q11.1 Will looking at learning continue to be focus in the standards? What is future of program level assessment? Course level? GE?

A11. All #accreditors have shifted from inputs to outcomes to ensure quality + effectiveness. Student learning is the prime outcome measure

A11.1 Setting SLOs at the course, program + institutional level is being intentional about students' knowledge, competencies, upon completion

A11.2 SLOs: "unit of measure" faculty use to assess/improve program effectiveness is framing productive dialogue on doing better

A11.3 Rigorous atten. to SLOs has been standard practice in #higherEd for decades. Our task: Explain value to faculty mission

Q12. The movement in #accreditation is now more forward-looking than in the past..

Q12.1 What is the future of QFE/AQIP/QEP plans + the role they will play during the reaffirmation process?

A12. Sig. emerging concepts are on the table at #ACCJC re how to shift primary focus of reaffirmation to quality improvement

A12.1 Several other accreditors (WASC/SACS) employ 2-stage “formative/summative” model that 1st id. areas of improvement

A12.2 The #college is then given time/guidance to make changes or to better “tell their story” before summative decision is made

A12.3 #ACCJC is moving toward an empowered cadre of engaged VPs who will more actively work w/ colleges to support improvement