

# ACCREDITATION NEWS

2020/21 Year 4 of ACS WASC Accreditation Cycle

SAN DIEGO COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Spring 2021

San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) an adult education institution within the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on a seven-year basis. The school is currently accredited through June 2024 and is continually documenting and improving processes to maintain accreditation on an ongoing basis.

Please visit [SDCCE's Accreditation web page](#) on the Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) site for more information.

**Mission Statement:** San Diego College of Continuing Education commits to student success and community enrichment by providing accessible, equitable, and innovative quality education and support services to diverse adult learners in pursuit of lifelong learning, training, career advancement, and pathways to college.

## FIVE VISITING COMMITTEE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand and increase access to course offerings, support services, and workforce development opportunities to support student success.
2. Increase internal and external communication and collaboration.
3. Provide equal access to targeted professional development with mechanisms that track and measure impact.
4. Maintain and secure technology in support of data-driven instruction, decision making, and student services.
5. Use Integrated planning to support institutional and student success.

## OVERVIEW OF THE MID-CYCLE VISIT

On April 29, 2021 faculty, classified professionals, and administrative leadership participated in a ½ day virtual accreditation mid-cycle progress visit. We hosted a visiting team of outside peer professionals that represented our accreditor, ACS WASC. The visiting team met briefly with the leadership team (SDCCE President Cortez, VPI Fischthal, VPSS Rivera Lacey, VPA Sabanos, Dean of PRIE Luedtke, Academic Senate President Bromma and Classified Senate President Kovrig) and then met in two one hour meetings with a group of faculty, classified professionals and managers.

“The purpose of the one-or two-day visit by a two-member team is to understand the school’s purpose, its program, and operations based upon the ACS WASC criteria and detailed school description.”

[www.acswasc.org/about/acs-wasc-overview/](http://www.acswasc.org/about/acs-wasc-overview/). It is largely meant

to assess the school’s progress on its’ action plan. The team was so impressed with SDCCE’s progress report ([found here](#)) that they reduced the meetings with the leadership team to 20 minutes and the two group meetings to just an hour!

Thank you to all of our colleagues who represented, prepared for, and participated in one of the two group meetings with the visiting team:

- Laurie Cozzolino (PD)
- Veleka Iwuaba (FELI, PC, ICOM)
- Marne Foster (SLO, Accreditation, Basic Skills, CC&R, Program Review, Integrated Planning)
- Ingrid Greenberg (Distance Education, PD)
- Libbier Bakit (Instructional Support, ISO)
- Jesus Rivas (Research, Integrated Planning, Faculty Institute)
- Anthony Vargas (ASO, Technology, Facilities)
- Esther Matthew (Counseling)
- Richard Gholson (Curriculum Chair, DE/ICOM, CTE, ASB Exec Team)
- Bryan Perrin (DE mentor, CTE)
- Margaret Posner (ESL, Accreditation)
- Cassandra Storey (Faculty Institute, lead CTE Dean, Community Ed)
- Desiree Payne (Curriculum, ISO)
- Richard Weinroth (WBL, ESL)
- Cat Prindle (Counselor, PC, DSSC)
- Patti Buse (Student Services, SSO)
- Stephanie Lewis (C&CT, learning community, Apprenticeship, R2S)

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## IMPRESSIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- “The Mid-term report was exceptional. The questions posed by the visiting team were non-traditional, and gave us an opportunity to brag on how we contribute to student success, our achievements and why SDCCE is a great place to work.”  
Marne Foster, SLO Coordinator/Program Review Coordinator
- “The visiting team also asked: What are you most proud of? Testimonial sharing was very insightful and meaningful. Everyone highlighted how we change students’ lives. All stakeholders were well prepared.” - Margaret Posner, Accreditation Sub-Committee Tri-Chair
- “We heard only positive feedback from the visiting team about the Progress Report, the progress the institution has made on our action plan, and their time spent with faculty and classified professional leaders in the Zooms. They really enjoyed their visit and Dr. Parcel noted their hearts were warmed in seeing the passion and innovation coming from our practitioners; not just in pockets of the institution, but across the whole of it.” - Jessica Luedtke, Dean of Planning, Research, & Institutional Effectiveness
- “It was an awesome experience. I appreciated getting all the reports ahead of time, the opportunity to attend a well-prepared presentation about the upcoming visit, and another opportunity to attend a drop-in session to get questions answered before the accreditation team arrived. I felt prepared for the visit and liked being part of a panel which widely represented SDCCE (campuses, programs, etc.). Thank you for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to participate.” - Cat Prindle, Professor/Counselor
- “I was impressed on how well organized Jessica and her team lead, prepared SDCCE folks prior to and up until the meeting date of the visit. I left the visit experience with an even more fortified opinion of how CE works together to achieve our goals and mission, which includes providing the best we can to students.” - Desiree Payne, Curriculum Analyst
- “Hello all- having been through, as many of you have, several Accreditation Visits at SDCCE – I have to say this process has been one of the most seamless and well managed-- and I think credit has to go to Jessica and her team, along with everyone else’s support and contributions. It was a pleasure to share out with colleagues at the Zoom Meeting, and also meet with the visiting team, who provided thoughtful and relevant questions. It does take a village – and we have a great one!
- The visiting team asked very thoughtful questions. They first shared that they were so impressed with the report, they did not need to ask any data or outcomes questions, and they already had a clear understanding of SDCCE because of the thoroughness of the report. They asked very interesting questions that were reflective and deep, including ‘Why do you think YOU are here in this session? What do you want to share about your institution?’  
  
Each of us shared out how our area/program/role impacts students, and that the overarching picture is how dedicated to our student success, and SDCCE’s success, is always first in our minds and our work.  
  
I also heard a strong voice for the respect, as employees and colleagues, for one another, and our commitment to team work, and doing everything we can to provide the best service we can, even thru this really rough last year and a half.” -Laurie Cozzolino, SDCCE Flex/PD Coordinator
- “It was good to hear about the work being done throughout the organization.” - Cassandra Storey, Dean, Healthcare Careers and Community Education
- “Being part of the group that met with the accreditation made me feel important...as someone with critical knowledge about the institution.  
  
Seeing that the folks from the accreditation group were very satisfied with the mid-cycle report gave me a great feeling of closure since I participated in its development.  
  
Having the opportunity to hear from other members of our institution in relationship to our strengths reminded me of how passionate people are with the job they do here at SDCCE.”- Jesus Rivas, Research and Planning Analyst
- “As a participant in the visit with the WASC Accreditation Team, my impression was very positive. First, I would like to thank the Accreditation team for preparing me/us for the oral interview/discussion with the WASC team. Laurie Cozzolino and I met the day before April 29 and we reviewed highlights of SDCCE’s professional development response to the pandemic, which is quite an impressive list. Simply awesome! During the course of

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the April 29 interview, I realized that there were some unspoken victories that needed to be shared. I appreciated that the format was flexible enough to allow me to contribute highlights from student services as well as instructional services. Here is a summary of my comments:

Heroic efforts by student services, classified professionals, and faculty to coordinate delivery of computers and other devices to SDCCE students, faculty, and staff during spring 2020 - spring 2021.

14 volunteer Online Faculty Mentors stepped up and served hundreds of hours of one-to-one and group mentoring to support faculty transitioning to remote and online education in March 2020. These amazing efforts set the tone and pace for collaboration among faculty and staff during pandemic.

For many students, SDCCE has been a lifeline to student services, learning and engaging in the promise toward new jobs and careers during the pandemic. We applaud faculty and classified professionals who have used a variety of communications to stay in touch with students: phone, email, text, Canvas, Zoom, Pronto and other phone apps.

Many thanks to administration for promoting me/Ingrid Greenberg to 100% reassigned time as SDCCE Online Faculty Mentor Coordinator position. This position enabled leadership to scale a variety of online faculty mentoring spring 2020-present: one-to-one mentoring, group mentoring (program level, instructional level)

16 Online Faculty Mentors (compensated) have been supporting new and returning faculty with completing Online Faculty Certification Program late spring 2020-present. We are very proud to report that SDCCE improved Online Faculty Certification Program (OFCP) completion rate from pre-COVID 50% to January 2021: 87%." – Ingrid Greenberg, ESL Professor; SDCCE Online Faculty Mentor/Coordinator; Academic Senate Past President (2011-2013)

- "Yes!!! This was my first time. I was nervous, but it was a great experience and my colleagues are 🧡🧡🧡. Reviewing that AMAZING and well written report that speaks to all the great things we have done, are doing, and will do make me very proud to work at SDCCE!

I personally enjoyed the experience even though I didn't know what to expect and was pretty nervous about how things would proceed. One of many things I appreciated about the process leading up to the Accreditation Mid-Cycle visit was the optional Accreditation Progress Visit Question Session Drop-In session, a quick chat, and I was easily put at ease. I also enjoyed the actual visit, it felt very informal and warm thanks to an extremely well-written progress report. It was a great opportunity to get a global view of all of the amazing work that has been taking place at our institution and hear the various stakeholders speak to the work they have been doing with great passion and eagerness to support our students." - Veleka Iwuaba, ABE/ASE Dept. Program Chair; FELI/CCR Coordinator; Career and College Readiness/Accelerated HSDP Faculty

- "I found the experience very affirming. I enjoyed the opportunity to join with a group of my colleagues in sharing the positive work that SDCCE is doing to support our diverse student population. I am grateful to the organization of SDCCE source documents provided by Jessica and team. I was very impressed with the interest and thorough review of our report that the visiting team had undertaken evidenced by their clear understanding of SDCCE and their follow up questions." - Richard Weinroth, Work-Based Learning Coordinator; ESL Instructor
- "Wow! It is times like this that I am reminded why I love working at SDCCE! There is something amazing about this place, the people, and the life-changing, equitizing, social justice work we do. It is one thing to know that we are engaged, and committed, to the educational mission of the institution and the success of our students, but to have it validated by an outside visiting team... feels absolutely awesome!

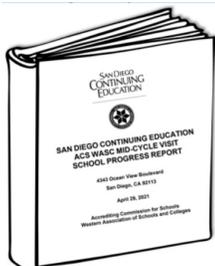
I would also like to publicly recognize and give kudos to the PRIE team and the outstanding leadership of Dean Jessica. With Jessica at the helm, we are certainly destined for success! And a huge thanks to the village that made it a success! Go team go! - Star Rivera-Lacey, VP of Student Services.

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## COMMENTS FROM THE WASC VISITING TEAM REPORT

1. Everyone at SDCCE has a passion and commitment to the mission.
2. SDCCE fundamentality changes people's lives.
3. SDCCE offers an amazing variety of courses, programs, and opportunities. All of this provided at no cost to the students.
4. Upper leadership are visionary and have high expectations for faculty and staff.
5. Upper leadership ensures supports are in place for the faculty and staff. This leads to faculty having a forward mentality and being innovators.
6. Faculty are passionate about providing the best education and support for students.
7. Faculty are lifelong learners. The quality of instruction is high.
8. Everyone is on the same page....from the President down. Everyone is focused on the students. All work together collaboratively.
9. Data collection and analysis guides all work. SDCCE uses the knowledge gained to provide outstanding services to support students.
10. Students who show up to learn each day in spite of the challenges placed before them and trust that SDCCE will help them to transform.
11. How SDCCE makes a difference is measurable. Once again, SDCCE changes lives.

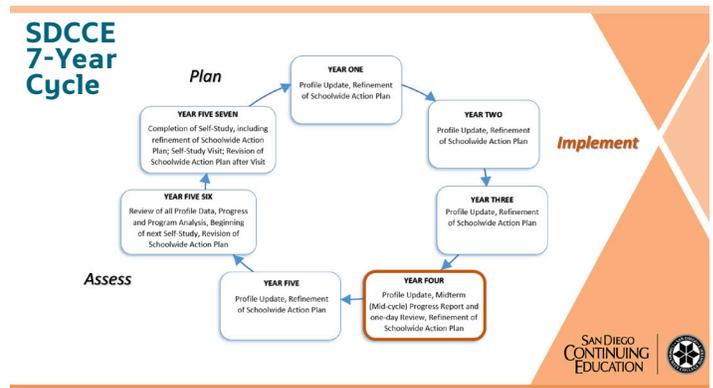
## MID-CYCLE REPORT



<https://sdce.edu/sites/default/files/iep/ACS-WASC-Mid-cycle-Visit-SDCE-Progress-Report-03022020-FINAL.pdf>

## NEXT STEPS WITH THE VISITING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION REPORT

- Updating the accreditation action plan.
- Collecting information from key stakeholders.
- Continue working on the self-study.
- The team has finished their report (all positive) and will send it on to the Commissioners for their June meeting.
- This year's updated Action Plan will be shared with EGC in early June.
- Fall 2021, marks the beginning of Year 5 of the 7-year accreditation cycle. The Accreditation Sub-Committee will begin early preparations for the ACS WASC self study visit in Spring 2024.



## SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Accreditation Sub-Committee meets the first Monday of each month during fall and spring. Guests are welcome. Contact [mposner@sdccd.edu](mailto:mposner@sdccd.edu) if interested in attending.

## ACCREDITATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Michelle Fischthal, VP of Instructional Services/School Principle (Tri-Chair)  
Jessica Luedtke, Dean PRIE/ALO (Tri-Chair)  
Margaret Posner, Faculty Accreditation Coordinator (Tri-Chair)  
Lisa Cork, Faculty  
Laurie Cozzolino, Flex/Professional Development Coordinator  
Ginger Davis, Administrative Assistant  
Marne Foster, Faculty  
Debi King, Administrative Technician  
Karen King, Sr. Office Manager  
Stephanie Lewis, Dean, Career & College Transition  
Andrei Lucas, Dean, Automotive, Skilled and Technical Trades  
Jesus Rivas, Researcher  
Katie Serbian, Faculty  
Sophear Slaketh, Sr. Student Services Assistant  
Clark Wilson, Job Placement Coordinator

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## WANT TO SERVE ON A VISITING TEAM?

Thank you to Dean Andrei Lucas, for serving on an Accreditation Visiting Committee for an Adult School in Northern California. If you are interested, please contact Ginger Davis at [gmdavis@sdccd.edu](mailto:gmdavis@sdccd.edu).

## 2020/21 TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

### September

Student and Community Profile Report  
2019/20 SDCCE Highlights Report (based on Visiting Committee Recommendations)  
Stakeholder Planning Focus Groups  
EGC Accreditation Presentation

### October

Focus Group Planning Report  
Leadership Refine and Approve Action Plan  
Final Draft Mid-Cycle Progress Report

### November/December

Governance Review of Mid-Cycle Progress Report

### January

Midterm Report to District Instructional Services/Shared with Chancellor's Cabinet\*

\*Subject to change

### April

April 5th - Accreditation Meeting/Mid-Cycle Participant Prep Meeting  
April 26th - Mid-Cycle Participant Question and Drop in session  
April 29 - ACS WASC Mid-Cycle Visit