BCCC Maintains Accreditation

Beaufort County Community College has received notification that its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has been reaffirmed. This action, announced in Atlanta on Dec. 8, entitles the College to continue in membership as a fully accredited college. Membership entitles the College to state in its catalog and brochures that the college is SACS accredited. Moreover, SACS accreditation ensures that students' transcripts are honored throughout the North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina System, and at colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Beaufort County Community College achieved its initial accreditation in 1973. Since that time, the College has successfully sought reaffirmation in 1978, 1988, and 1998. The SACS accreditation process involves extensive self-study on the part of member institutions seeking reaffirmation. This self-study represents a thorough examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the college in accordance with The Criteria for Accreditation.

More than 90 percent of the college constituency undertook the two-year process of self-study, which culminated in a peer review. This peer review took place April 5-8. Both the process of self-study and the product enhance the quality of the college. Betty Cochran, head of the College Arts and Sciences department, chaired the self-study committee. Cochran said, "The tasks fulfilled by the self-study committee were gargantuan. They not only did the work required for SACS, but state mandates in 1996 required them to rewrite the college curriculum and re-engineer the statewide community college system."

Dr. Ron Champion, president of Beaufort County Community College stated, "Our faculty pulled together to create the 'seamless fabric' that legislators wanted between state universities and community colleges. Their hard work and dedication made it possible for us to make the transition from the quarter system to the semester system, satisfy the government mandates, and meet the SACS requirements. Despite the added pressure, our college was able to meet all of the requirements and still maintain our high standards on campus."

Beaufort County Community College offers thirty programs that lead to the A.S., A.A., and A.A.S. degrees, as well as diplomas and certificates in various areas ranging from transfer to senior colleges to basic skills for work force training and retraining.

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