Renewing NCTA’s Accreditation
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

A healthy analysis of every aspect of an institution of higher learning is vital to its wellbeing and commitment to its clientele.

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is well into preparation for its reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. During this process, the United States Department of Education works through the HLC to determine overall quality of all operations at NCTA. Essentially, this is an institutional checkup by the federal government.

NCTA is here to teach students and to prepare them for careers in agriculture. NCTA is a public institution, the only two-year college affiliated with the University of Nebraska system.

Since initially gaining HLC accreditation on Feb. 5, 2004, the college has received reaffirmation of accreditation during 2009-2010, and is slated for review again during 2015-2016. We look forward to an HLC site visit next March.

Meanwhile, our faculty and staff have been engaged in a thorough review of all facets of NCTA operations for the past year or so, and continue preparations for this official evaluation.

Our campus accreditation coordinator is Dottie Evans. In addition to her teaching schedule as part-time faculty, her steady organization and meticulous oversight has been invaluable in guiding us through our ongoing preparations. Dottie is keeping us on schedule.

For example, one year ago, I named five committees comprised of 30 employees and student representatives to spearhead the nitty-gritty of key “criterion” review.

The task of the five teams was to gather documents, evaluate procedures and policies, critique methods, discuss potential improvements, review challenges and most importantly, work together through checklists of the criteria on which NCTA is evaluated by the HLC team and peer institutions.

Admittedly, that is an arduous process and not every individual could attend each meeting. However, the teams know the importance of a national review and that colleges must be accountable to their clientele, federal and state regulators, educational outcomes, funding and administrative sources and you, the taxpayers and supporters of a public institution.

Last week, we met again to spend several hours discussing criteria, documentation and the many examples of how NCTA carries out its mission, values and strategic goals. No doubt, you have seen the NCTA Mission many times. It bears mention here:

NCTA Mission:
The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials.

I appreciate the commitment from all who have been working on the accreditation. And, I invite you to follow our progress on the college’s web site http://ncta.unl.edu or at http://ncta.unl.edu/accreditation1.

Upcoming Events at NCTA:
May 28:  West Central 4-H Youth Animal Science Field Day, Ed Center
May 28:  Congressman Adrian Smith campus visit, Ed Center
June 3:  NRD Manager’s Meetings, NCTA Ed Center
June 8: New Student Registration, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., NCTA Ed Center
June 15-16: Youth Career Connection Camp, NCTA Ed Center
June 17: West Central NE Development District tour and meeting, NCTA Ed Center
June 23: Nebraska Water Tour, 9:30-10 a.m., NCTA Ed Center
June 24: 4-H Horticulture Camp, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, NCTA Greenhouse
June 27: UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Association annual meeting, York

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