

**Paradise Valley Community College**  
**Progress Report on the Assessment of Student Learning – 2005-2007**  
**Submitted to The Higher Learning Commission February 2008**

**Executive Summary**

As a result of The Higher Learning Commission's comprehensive evaluation in 2005, Paradise Valley Community College was required to submit a Progress Report by March 1, 2008 outlining our progress in the area of the assessment of student learning. The HLC requested an account of advances on the following:

...the full implementation of the assessment of outcomes of student learning, including evidence:

- (1) that assessment is being used in all program areas by all faculty to improve teaching and learning;
- (2) that assessment of general education has developed measurable objectives;
- (3) that assessment practices inform and involve students; and
- (4) that assessment is providing feedback to programs and is being used to improve student learning.

The report addressed each of the four issues and included information on sustainability and future directions of assessment initiatives at PVCC. A brief outline of the report follows. A full-text copy of the report is available at PVCC's Assessment of Learning web site:

[http://www.pvc.maricopa.edu/AL/docs/HLC\\_Progress.pdf](http://www.pvc.maricopa.edu/AL/docs/HLC_Progress.pdf)

Introduction, Accreditation History, History of Assessment at PVCC

To provide context for the reader, the report included an overview of the College, its mission statement, core value, strategic issues, organizational structure, and student demographics. A brief review of PVCC's accreditation history was provided and the history of assessment at PVCC discussed how the College defines assessment, its philosophy of assessment, the assessment leadership and teams, a chronology of key assessment related events from 2005-2007, and PVCC's definition of various levels of assessment.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes Besides General Education

Progress in assessing student learning, outside the General Education Learning Outcomes, was demonstrated through class/course assessment, division assessment reports, participation in assessment, program assessment, and out-of-class assessment.

Assessment of General Education Learning Outcomes

The report showed evidence of significant progress in the assessment of General Education Learning Outcomes, in faculty participation in assessment, and in professional development related to assessing student learning.

### Assessment Practices Inform and Involve Students

Evidence included assessment statements in course syllabi and the PVCC Catalog. Advances toward informing and involving students in assessment were demonstrated through the development of the Agenda for Student Success and Learning, iStartSmart, and student involvement in creating out-of-class assessments. The administration of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) was also discussed in this section.

### Using Assessment Feedback to Improve Student Learning

Results and improvements were discussed related to class/course, program, general education, the Assessment of Learning Web site, out-of-class assessment, and student engagement.

The Progress Report concluded with a brief description of sustainability and future directions, including the 5-year assessment strategic plan.

A full-text copy of the report is available at: [http://www.pvc.maricopa.edu/AL/docs/HLC\\_Progress.pdf](http://www.pvc.maricopa.edu/AL/docs/HLC_Progress.pdf).