

## Benefits of AQIP

- ▶ Improvement cycles based on feedback leading to focused Action Projects.
- ▶ Collaboration and networking with peers in a non-threatening environment.
- ▶ Greater involvement of faculty and staff.
- ▶ Re-accreditation integrated seamlessly with improvement based on our college's own priorities.

## Cycles of AQIP

**Action:** A one-year cycle of continuous improvement when an institution chooses three to four projects to complete over a short period of time.

**Strategy:** A four-year cycle that drives improvement to create and to maintain a Systems Portfolio, a document describing an organization's key systems, achieved goals, and performance results. AQIP reviews this portfolio and responds with a Systems Appraisal; feedback is then used to improve the institution. At annual Strategy Forums the organization learns to use this feedback effectively.

**Accreditation:** A seven-year cycle that reviews evidence from both the action and the strategy cycles, demonstrating that the AQIP organization complies with the HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

## BTC Central Campus



### AQIP information and updates can be seen at:

- ▶ <http://www.hlcommission.org/aqip-home/>
- ▶ <http://www.blackhawk.edu/aqip/index.html>
- ▶ <http://intranet1/aqip/default.aspx>
- ▶ "AQIP Corner" in the *Coffeebreak*



[www.blackhawk.edu](http://www.blackhawk.edu)

# Blackhawk Technical College



## Accreditation

The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) supports continuous performance improvement and provides an alternative process for colleges and universities to maintain their regional accreditation.

Launched in 1999 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) with a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, AQIP currently includes over 150 post-secondary institutions which meet the HLC's accreditation standards by participating in challenging activities to improve their key systems and overall performance.

Each AQIP organization shares its process improvements and performance results with the HLC as evidence to excel in the distinctive higher education mission each institution has identified.

***BTC was accepted into AQIP in December 2005.***

## Five HLC Criteria

### I. Mission and Integrity

The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the boards, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

### II. Preparing for the Future

The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

### III. Student Learning and Effective Teaching

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

### IV. Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

### V. Engagement and Service

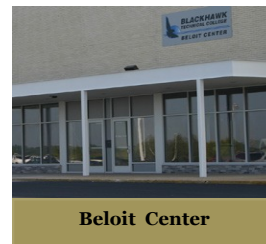
As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

**Smart Choice!**

## Academic Quality Improvement Program

The **Systems Portfolio**, consisting of nine categories, provides a framework from which BTC can evaluate its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. The nine categories are:

1. **Helping Student Learn**
2. **Accomplishing Other Distinctive Objectives**
3. **Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs**
4. **Valuing People**
5. **Leading and Communicating**
6. **Supporting Institutional Operations**
7. **Measuring Effectiveness**
8. **Planning Continuous Improvement**
9. **Building Collaborative Relationships**



## AQIP at BTC

1. Initial Assessment: Strategic Horizons (2004)
2. BTC's acceptance into AQIP (December 2005)
3. Conversations: Identify college strengths (Fall 2006)
4. Follow-up Report: Share results of Conversations (Fall 2006)
5. College-wide Feedback: Develop action project proposals (Fall 2006)
6. Strategy Forum I: Share proposed action projects with other institutions (November 2006)
7. Action Projects\*: Develop three to four based on feedback from Strategy Forum sessions (The first set declared in 2006)
8. BTC's AQIP Steering Team (Spring 2007)
9. Systems Portfolio: Publish document (November 2009) and updated every four years.
10. Systems Appraisal (February 2010)
11. Strategy Forum II (Fall 2010)
12. Site Visit: Quality checkup by the Higher Learning Commission (Spring 2013)

\*New action projects are brought on as existing projects are completed or retired.

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