

# The Good that Accreditors Do

Presented by

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# Factors Impacting the Role of Higher Education

- On average, only 70% of American students graduate from high school in the United States annually
- By 2010, we will need 2 million more scientists and engineers and 2.4 million more workers with key manufacturing and production skills
- Currently, shortages in health care fields, construction, plumbers, machinists, etc.



# Factors cont'd

- Students lack skills in basic math, science, information technology, critical thinking and analytical skills, and writing
- Fewer visas are being issued resulting in a shortage of foreign workers in some areas
- Baby boomer retirements will worsen the shortage of workers



# Factors continued

- Global competition is increasing
- Innovations in technology continue to evolve
- Demand for higher skills is growing



# How to Respond

- Train more women in non-traditional areas
- Work with minority students while still in the K-12 system
- Provide research opportunities for undergraduates
- Link courses thematically
- Promote service learning
- Provide more on-the-job training programs



# How to Respond continued

- Expose students to the broadest view of the world as it relates to each discipline
- Ensure graduates have specific, demonstrated and measurable competencies in the discipline, as well as applied and soft skills
- Develop a variety of delivery strategies to meet the different ways students learn



# How to Respond continued

- Ensure that the curriculum you design fosters competency in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, technology, global integration, critical thinking, teamwork, ethics, diversity and life long learning
- Provide proof that your students can perform and, if they can't, ways to remediate their weaknesses



# Role of Accreditation

SO WHAT??????????



# Purpose of Accreditation

- Signifies that “an institution has a purpose appropriate to higher education and has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that purpose.”
- Indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.”



# Accreditation Process

- Provides an assessment of an institution's effectiveness in the fulfillment of its mission, its compliance with the requirements of its accrediting association, and its continuing efforts to enhance the quality of student learning and its programs and services
- Stimulates evaluation and improvement
- Provides continuing accountability to the public



# BOTTOM LINE

- Institutional Quality and Self Improvement
- Accountability to the general public
- Competitive population
- Retention of position of power as a nation



# Contact Information

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