



“Rising to the Challenge-Road to Accreditation”

**Accreditation Update
New Mexico Legislative
Indian Affairs Committee**

October 7, 2011



AGENDA

Presenters:

- Dr. Sherry Allison, President
- Mr. Monte Monteith, VP-College Operations (A)
- Ms. Valerie Montoya, VP-Academics

Agenda:

- Purpose of Presentation
- Introduction of SIPI staff
- Accreditation Chronology and Candidacy
- Accreditation Update
- Next Steps
- Discussion/Questions



MISSION STATEMENT (2009)

Southwestern **I**ndian **P**olytechnic **I**nstitute is a ***National Indian Community College*** that prepares ***Native American students*** to be productive ***life-long learners***, as ***tribal members***, in an ***ever-changing global environment***. As a ***land grant institution***, SIPI ***partners*** with tribes, employers, and other organizations with a stake in Indian education. An enduring commitment to ***student success*** is the hallmark of SIPI's operations.



VISION STATEMENT

By the year 2020, **S**outhwestern **I**ndian **P**olytechnic **I**nstitute (SIPI) will solidify its position as a preeminent higher learning institution, providing a range of career and transfer opportunities for Native learners throughout the United States including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Recognized for its unwavering commitment to success for all students, SIPI is innovative in the pursuit of educational excellence. SIPI collaborates with tribes and other entities with a stake in Indian education. SIPI's graduates are proud of their Native American culture in a pluralistic, globalized world and are ready to compete with the best graduates from colleges and universities anywhere.



GOALS

1. Make **learner success** the core work of **S**outhwestern **I**ndian **P**olytechnic **I**nstitute.
2. Develop new programs, strengthen existing programs, and recruit students to ***respond directly*** to the current and projected demographic and **economic trends** of Indian tribes, the state in which they are located, the nation, and the world.
3. Promote the health and economic vitality of Indian tribes and communities through dynamic **partnerships**, coalitions, and collaborations.
4. Expand the use of **instructional technology** to enhance student learning.
5. Make better **use of existing data and information**; create new actionable information and customers for this information to support SIPI's operational and **strategic planning** efforts.
6. Provide new and expanded opportunities for **faculty and staff development** that supports an atmosphere of **excellence** in academics and student support services.



VALUES

- **Respect for tribal sovereignty, self-determination, self-governance and recognition of treaty obligations.** The college recognizes that Indian nations exist as sovereign nations with the inherent right of self-determination and self-governance. SIPI will accomplish its goals within this scope through collaborative partnerships with tribal entities.
- **Relevance.** Recognizing the impact of global trends on Indian nations, the college strives to deliver culturally, socially, and economically relevant information, training, and services that will offer long-term solutions and encourage life-long learning among students. Furthermore, through the process of education, the college will work with tribal communities to reclaim and integrate traditional indigenous knowledge into a context that will meet their needs.
- **Respect for Diversity.** The college values and supports diversity within its structure and within the individuals and communities that are served.
- **Holistic Approaches.** The college will provide a holistic learning environment for students including affective, cognitive and social enhancement.
- **Integrity and Professionalism.** The college strives to provide the highest quality instruction, services, and learning resources to American Indian and Alaska Native students and communities
- **Service to Tribal Nations.** The college works with tribal nations and public and private industry in setting a direction and through its many education/training programs, workshops, conferences, and grant/contract-supported projects; the college works to assist tribal nations in dealing with complex challenges and opportunities.
- **Promote Educational Excellence for All Native Americans.** The college will foster partnerships with other organizations and consortiums that promote educational access and excellence for all Native Americans.



HLC ACCREDITATION CHRONOLOGY

- **December 7-9, 2009: Onsite visit**
 - 2000 thru 2010 (10 years)
- **February 2, 2010: Team report**
 - Recommended Sanction
- **May 3, 2010: HLC Hearing**
- **June 3, 2010: HLC Board of Trustees Committee Hearing**
- **June 24-25, 2010: HLC Board of Trustees Voted**



Con't: Chronology

- **July 2, 2010:** Letter received from HLC
 - Withdraw Accreditation but Granted SIPI Candidacy Status--unprecedented
 - SIPI “no longer meets the Criteria for Accreditation but SIPI retains presumption of meeting the Eligibility requirements”
 - Candidacy Period: 1 – 4 years
 - Noted Areas of Concern
- **August 6, 2010:** Effective Date of Candidacy
- **March 21-23, 2011:** Comprehensive Evaluation Team Visit
- **May 16, 2011:** Final Team Report Issued
- **July 18, 2011:** Institutional Actions Council (IAC)-HLC
- **July 25, 2011:** Formal Notification Received
- **Accreditation process is changing**



HLC CANDIDACY STATUS

- Pre-accreditation
- Effective August 6, 2010 (1 to 4 years)
- Retain US Dept of Education Grant Funds
- Retain Other Funding, e.g....A*CF, AIHEC
- Students Eligible for Federal and New Mexico Financial Aid
- SIPI Credits Can Transfer to Other Colleges and Universities: Letters From (a) 3 Associations on Behalf of All NM Institutions, and, (b) NM Higher Education Department (pg 4.2-2 of HLC Handbook)



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

- **HLC Website**
- **SIPI Website**
 - Letter, Logo, Reports and Information
- **Inform Students, Staff and Tribes**
 - Meetings
 - Press Release, Letter to Students, “Dear Tribal Leader Letter”, Presentations
 - SIPI Website: Accreditation Information and Updates/Monthly Newsletters



Final Team Report for March, 2011 visit

- (1) determine if SIPI continues to meet candidacy requirements and
- (2) If SIPI is making satisfactory progress on the issues identified in December, 2009.
- Major Findings:
 - broad-based involvement in the self-study
 - SIPI portrayed a single-minded dedication
 - **SIPI made adequate progress
 - BIE supports local control; direct reporting between the President and BIE Director is critical
 - Strategic plan refined articulating the mission, vision, & values; focus on student success
 - Broad ownership for providing adequate learning resources for students,
 - Integration of the mission in all aspects of the academic community
 - Students demonstrate engagement in accreditation process & pride in SIPI.
 - Inclusive, comprehensive & well-informed system of strategic planning & implementation.
 - Noteworthy strides made in creating an assessment process for student learning
 - Effective teaching practices, strong community interface, & facilities that support student learning.
 - Gen Ed requirements integrated into all programs of study, a well defined curricular review process, the establishment of advisory committees, and a published student conduct code.
 - SIPI has established mutually beneficial and meaningful partnerships



CRITERION 1: MISSION AND INTEGRITY

CRITERIA MET

Shared Governance (BIE, President, Staff):

- Restructure Academic Programs
- Established Curriculum Committee
- IAM Formalized Delegation of Authority of President
- President Cabinet: Budget, Policies, Planning

Turnover of President:

- Formal Support of BOR

Limited Staff:

- Hired Staff: Including 3 Department Chairs
- Hiring Plan: Prioritize Vacant Positions and Identify Funding
- Leverage Funding Sources: Bequest and Title III
- Close out Personnel Conversion

Lack of Program Reviews:

- Academics: Plan Completed, Instrument Developed and In Progress

Incomplete Strategic Plan:

- Completed
- Operational Work Plans (86% participation in Focus Groups)

Institutional Documents: Catalog, Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook

- Policies
- Cross Reference



CRITERION 2: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

CRITERION MET

Incomplete Strategic Plan

- Completed

No Assessment/Program Review Data

- *Non Academic*—need to implement
- *Academics*—need to implement

No Systematic Planning/Budget Process

- System Developed—need to implement
- Presidents Cabinet (Staff Involvement)

No Stand-Alone Audit

- Working with Department of Interior

No Systematic Budget Development

- System Developed and Piloted—first year implementation
- Presidents Cabinet –shared governance

No Institutional Research Office

- Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning: hired
- Institutional Review Board has been appointed
- Systems development
- Data reporting, public information



CRITERION 3: STUDENT LEARNING & EFFECTIVE TEACHING

1 Core Component NOT MET (pg 23 of report)

- **No Program Assessment of Student Learning and Assessment Data Not Used in Decision-Making**

Note: Plans developed; however, need to implement and collect 2 cycles of data

- **No Program Reviews:**
 - SIPI Model Developed and Approved by Curriculum Committee
 - 3 Programs reviews complete this year



**CRITERION 4:
ACQUISITION, DISCOVERY AND
APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE**
CRITERION MET

Advisory Committee Protocol

- All programs have Advisory Committees
- Handbook Developed

Professional Development

- Campus Survey Developed: Data Collection
(Need work)



CRITERION 5: ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE

CRITERION MET: No issue

Road to Accreditation: Next Steps

- Implement all processes and plans
 - Program Review
 - Program Assessment
 - Budget Planning
- Re-establish Student Services Division
- Build up Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning
- Establish Development Office



Continue: Next Steps

- Fiscal management
 - Annual Audit
 - Amending FFS
 - Change to FBMS
- Personnel
 - Hiring Plan: Identify Funding and Priorities
 - Organizational Chart
- Document Management
- Continue Accreditation Process (New): Assurance Statement and Quality Initiative
- Onsite visit and apply for accreditation: 2013-2014



We must stay focused on:

- our Students**
- our Mission, Vision, Goals &**
- our Strategic Plan to**

BECOME A BETTER COLLEGE

