



The accreditation process gives our college the opportunity to conduct a thorough self-study that will clearly identify our strengths and our weaknesses, and enable us to develop a road-map for the future. Your dedication to the college has put us on the cutting edge of professional and technical training. I encourage you to participate in this extremely important accreditation process—your insights and suggestions will enable us to rise to a higher level of excellence.

—Dr. L. Michael Metke, President

## Accreditation Calendar

*Fall 2004:* The Steering Committee will determine what evidence is needed for each standard and what data need to be collected

*Spring 2005:* The Steering Committee will complete gathering preliminary data

*Fall 2005/Winter 2006:* The data will be organized and analyzed. Committees will prepare reports

*Spring 2006:* Committee reports will be combined and the “LWTC Self-Study Report” will be completed

*Summer 2006:* The Self-Study Report will be mailed to the NWCCU Commission

*Fall 2006:* The Evaluation team will visit LWTC

Lake Washington  
Technical College

2006 Accreditation

Preparing students for today's careers  
and tomorrow's opportunities

# Accreditation

## Accreditation Steering Committee

- Doug Emory, *Chair*
- Maria Macedo, *Co-Chair*
- Dave Cunningham, *Coordinator*
- Mary Burnett, *Standard III*
- Bob Mandy, *Standards VII, VIII*
- Greg Roberts, *Standards IV, V*
- Denise Watson, *Standards I, VI, IX*
- Marie Willsey, *Standard II*
- Heidi Shepherd, *Hosting*
- Paula Palmer, *Research*
- Myung Park, *Research*



Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

## What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a process of recognizing educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality. Accreditation has two fundamental purposes: to certify the quality of the institution or program and to assist in the improvement of the institution or program. Lake Washington Technical College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

## Who is the NWCCU?

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is a non-profit corporation for the expressed purpose of accrediting higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Its mission is to assure educational quality, enhance institutional effectiveness, and foster continuous improvement of colleges and universities in the Northwest region through analytical institutional self-assessment and critical peer review based upon evaluation criteria that are objectively and equitably applied to institutions with diverse missions, characteristics, and cultures.

The Commission oversees regional accreditation for 157 institutions. Its decision-making body consists of twenty-six Commissioners who represent the public and the diversity of higher education institutions within the Northwest region.



## What Does the NWCCU Look For?

The institutional self-study is the most significant part of the accreditation process. The aim of self-study is to help us understand, evaluate, and improve the institution.

The NWCCU has listed the following standards as essential considerations for the self-study and the evaluation committee:

1. Institutional Mission and Goals, Planning and Effectiveness
2. Educational Program And Its Effectiveness
3. Students
4. Faculty
5. Library and Information Resources
6. Governance and Administration
7. Finance
8. Physical Resources
9. Institutional Integrity

## The Accreditation Process

The accreditation process is jointly conducted by LWTC and the Commission. It includes the following steps:

1. A representative of the Commission will conduct a preliminary visit on campus in September 2004.
2. LWTC will research and create a self-study report. This report will be mailed to the Commission in July 2006.

3. The NWCCU Evaluation Committee will review the self-study and visit the campus in October 2006.
4. The Evaluation Committee will submit its report to the Commission Office. The Commission Office will provide Dr. Metke with the evaluation report.
5. The Commission will review our self-study report, the evaluation committee's written report, and LWTC's written response to the evaluation committee report, and take action on the accreditation status of LWTC.
6. LWTC will continue to consider and act on the results of its own self-study and the advice received.

## Why Do We Want Accreditation?

Accreditation assures students, parents and the general public that accredited schools are focused on student achievement, and on providing an efficient, effective, and enriching learning environment.

- The public is assured that a given school adheres to high quality standards based on the latest research and successful professional practice.
- Students can transfer their credits and academic records to other accredited institutions.
- Students can apply for financial aid from federal grants, scholarships, or military programs that require students to come from regionally accredited schools.
- Educators gain access to a network of schools within their region for the sharing of best practices and professional knowledge.

2004							2005							2006														
Summer				Fall			Winter			Spring			Summer				Fall											
M	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	0
-28	-27	-26	-25	-24	-23	-22	-21	-20	-19	-18	-17	-16	-15	-14	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	16
SU	Set up Time																		17									
I							Phase I: Gather Data												18									
II													Phase II: Analyze Results															
III													Write the Self-Study				Ship			Visit								