

## **The Accreditation “Connection”**

**June 17, 2008**

Making connections is what accreditation is all about. For better or worse, WASC, our national accrediting body, wants to see how Harbor is “connecting the dots.” What are the links we have established between policy and program, planning and budget, teaching and learning? The bottom line is this-- how does Harbor integrate its abstract “policy” decisions with the more “concrete” reality of what actually happens on our campus and in our specific classes? Accreditation (yes, even writing Strategic Learning Outcomes and Assessments) challenges us to “flesh out” what it means to connect the “idea” of a community college with what we actually do.

Over the course of this summer and next fall Jim Stanbery and I are working on the mid-term accreditation study which is due in February, 2009. We have set a fairly ambitious schedule that will allow us to jumpstart the process by locating and organizing materials from the most recent accreditation reports and making them accessible. This round of accreditation has the potential to make accrediting a centerpiece of the planning process. Starting at the visionary level of the World Café held in May, continuing on through the work of various campus committees, filtering into our divisions and finally into each of our jobs, Harbor is already in the process of integrating college goals with reality. Our hard work in the past has laid a foundation but Jim and I will need your further help to “connect the dots.” Thanks to everyone who will contribute to this project.

