CCCSU Prepares for its Ten-year Reaccreditation
Dr. Carl R. Lovitt, Provost

Federal law mandates that all universities must be reaccredited by their regional association every ten years to continue receiving federal funding, which students depend on for financial aid. Reaccreditation is vital because it certifies to the public that the University has undergone a thorough, independent review and met an exacting set of standards for delivering a high quality education. Reaccreditation is the highest stakes evaluation for any university.

Preparing for reaccreditation involves a rigorous and intensive process of self study, which culminates with an on-site visit by a team of experts who review countless documents and computer files, interview representatives from all sectors of the university community, and examine the state of the campus. Central Connecticut State University has been immersed in this process for the past two years, and we are preparing to welcome a team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) team for its site visit, October 19-22, 2008.

To be reaccredited, a university must demonstrate how it has addressed eleven detailed standards that cover everything from its mission, academic program, faculty, students, physical plant, finances, and commitment to public disclosure and integrity, as well as how the institution evaluates itself. CCSU’s preparation for reaccreditation required the participation of hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and administrators, who served on committees, interviewed colleagues, completed surveys, attended town meetings, and helped draft an exhaustive Self-Study that summarizes what the university has accomplished in the past ten years and how it plans to continue improving.

The reaccreditation process has affirmed the strides that the University has made over the past ten years, including offering our first doctoral degree, first online degree, and first engineering degree, as well as a new four-year BSN degree. CCSU has been honored by a national association for innovations in undergraduate education, and we have distinguished ourselves as leaders in the critically important area of environmental sustainability. We’ve learned that we need to do a better job of helping our students graduate, but the percentage of students who graduate in six years has been steadily increasing. An Employee Satisfaction Survey revealed how we can make improvements in areas that are valued by the university community. The creation of a new Office of Diversity and Equity reflects the University’s concern about the diversity climate on campus and the commitment to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all members of our community.

CCSU has emerged from the self-study process with clear priorities and a roadmap for the future. As a result of Governor Rell’s approval of the CSUS 2020 plan, CCSU will receive nearly $250 million over the next decade to upgrade its academic, support, and
library facilities to better meet the educational needs of our students. With plans to emphasize community engagement, international education, and workforce development, CCSU looks forward to pursuing its vision to serve the region and the state as their premier comprehensive public university.