

# Suffolk County Community College

## College Brief

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TO:         The College Community

FROM:      Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President

SUBJECT: Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) - Decennial Self-Study

Every ten years, the College takes the time to closely examine the organization as part of its Middle States reaccreditation process. MSCHE requires member institutions preparing for reaccreditation to undertake an intensive self-study. This review is a multi-year project that requires strong leadership, as well as participation and input from a cross-section of faculty and staff representing a variety of disciplines and areas across the College.

As we begin to develop the design for our Decennial Self-Study, I am taking this opportunity to share with you my decision to further emphasize the important role that will be played by the Office of Academic Affairs and our faculty in ensuring that the appropriate structure exists for us to complete this accreditation activity. A review of the College's directory listing on the Middle States website ([https://www.msche.org/institutions\\_view.asp?idinstitution=454](https://www.msche.org/institutions_view.asp?idinstitution=454)) corresponds with my decision, as it shows the accreditation hierarchy flowing from the Accreditation Liaison Officer (Dr. Lauren Tacke-Cushing), to the Chief Academic Officer (Dr. Suzanne Johnson), to myself, as President.

The College's faculty has always played a central role in the Middle States reaccreditation process at the College. This meets our accrediting body's expectations regarding the extent to which faculty should be involved in the conversations, decisions, and implementation of strategic activities that impact upon our College and the Middle States Standards.

In the most recent reaccreditation activities that have taken place at the College, we relied upon the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness to take the lead. Now that I have been able to bring together a team of professionals within the Office of Academic Affairs who possess substantial accreditation experience, it makes organizational sense to have that office assume leadership responsibility for the Decennial Self-Study process. As always, the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness will continue to provide data and support information to the Self-Study Steering Committee, the Self-Study Standard subcommittees, and the Self-Study Co-chairs.

Through the leadership of our MSCHE Self-Study Co-chairs, Dr. Lauren Tacke-Cushing and Professor Dan Linker, with the support of Cabinet, along with the assistance of the Self-Study

Steering Committee and the Self-Study Standard subcommittees, we will all remain knowledgeable regarding the status of the reaccreditation process. I am confident in the leadership team that exists within the Office of Academic Affairs and in their ability to work collegially with our faculty in completing the Self-Study review. Middle States will view this organizational shift as meeting its expectations regarding where accreditation conversations occur within an institution and that faculty should be actively involved in all aspects of Self-Study review.

In this manner, we will create a strong Self-Study report that incorporates a variety of perspectives and ultimately provides a useful document for us to follow for the next decade.