

AQIP Update



What the Heck is AQIP?

March 29, 2005

Prepared by Morgan Community College
<http://www.morgancc.edu/aqip/news/2007-10news.htm>

Adapted for RRCC by Christie Burton
March 6, 2009



The Higher Learning Commission

A Commission of the
North Central Association
of Colleges and Schools

NCA



Accreditation

Making a difference in Higher Learning

Focus of Accreditation

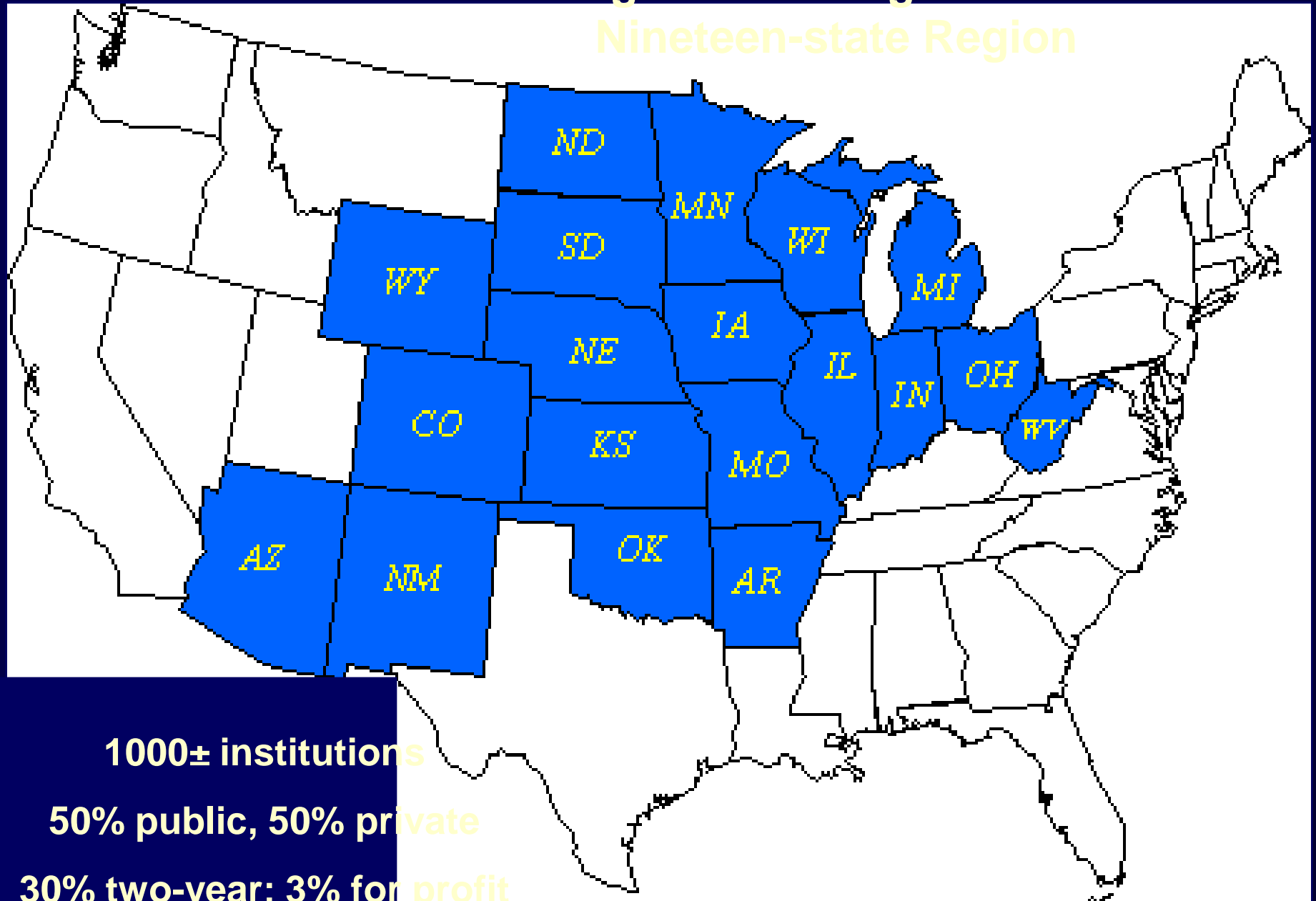
- **To assess the quality of an institution and its effectiveness**
- **To assist the institution in making improvements in its operations and effectiveness**
- **To provide mission-driven accreditation**

The Higher Learning Commission

- A voluntary, non-governmental, regional accrediting organization with 1000+/- member organizations
- NCA - Founded in 1895



The Higher Learning Commission Nineteen-state Region



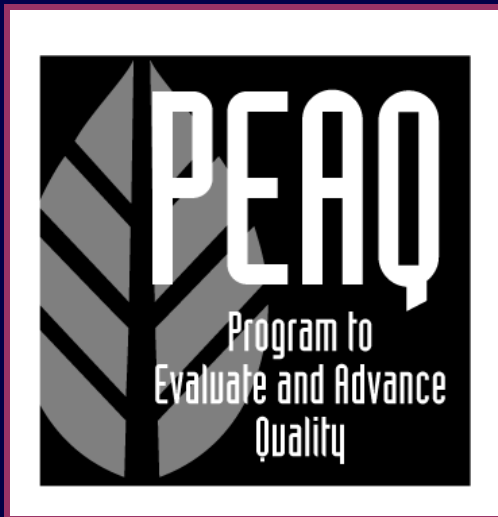
1000± institutions

50% public, 50% private

30% two-year; 3% for profit

PEAQ & AQIP

The Commission offers two programs for achieving **continued** accreditation.



AQIP

Program to Evaluate & Advance Quality

Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality



- The original process for continuing accreditation
- Process has evolved over the past 90 years
- This is the process MCC used in 1996 to receive a 10 year accreditation

Components of the PEAQ Process



- Institutional self study
- Evaluation by a team of trained peer reviewers
- Final decision making by the Commission

Academic Quality Improvement Program



- Launched in 1999
- An alternative process to *maintain* accreditation
- Based upon continuous improvement

Goals of AQIP



To infuse the principles and benefits of continuous improvement into the culture of colleges and universities in order to assure and advance the quality of higher education.

AQIP Means Fundamental Shifts in Thinking

...from inputs and resources to results,

...from teaching to teaching and learning,

...from looking back to looking forward,

...from autonomy to connection and interdependence

...from uniformity/stratification to distinctiveness, flexibility, and differentiation

Fundamentals of AQIP – Nine Criteria

Systems Thinking in a Process-Focused Organization

1. Helping students learn
2. Accomplishing other distinctive objectives
3. Understanding students' and other stakeholders' needs
4. Valuing people

Fundamentals of AQIP – Nine Criteria



5. Leading and communicating
6. Supporting institutional operations
7. Measuring effectiveness
7. Planning continuous improvement
9. Building collaborative relationships

Overall, the AQIP Criteria ask:



- Are we *doing the right things* — the things that are most important in order to achieve MCC's goals?
- Are we *doing things right* — effectively, efficiently, in ways that truly satisfy the needs of those we serve?

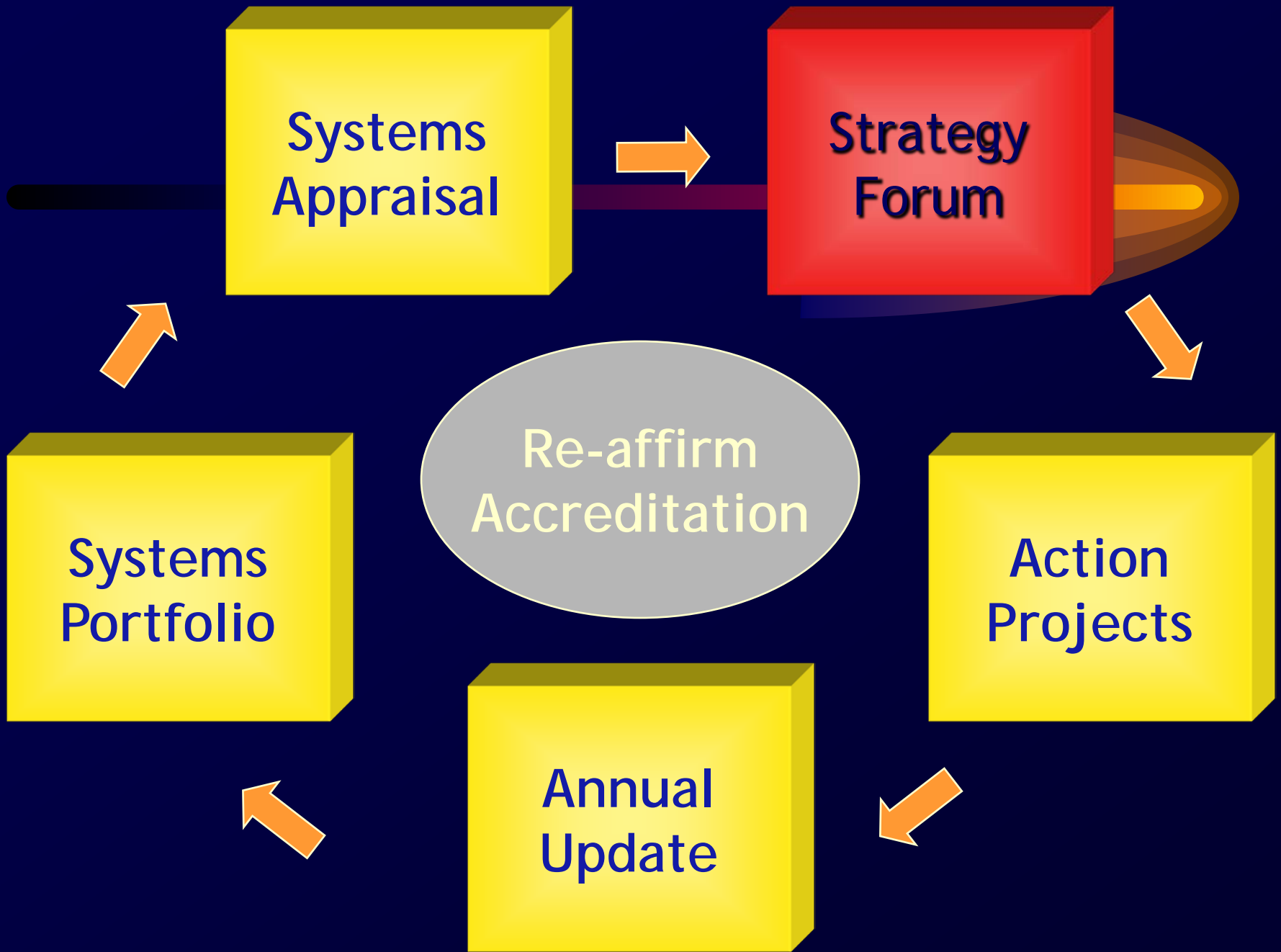
How Many Institutions have Joined AQIP?

At last count there were 135 colleges or universities that had joined AQIP

In Colorado: Morgan Community College, Community College of Denver, Aims Community College, Lamar Community College, Colorado Mountain College, Pueblo Community College and Red Rocks Community College are members.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation

- When an institution joins, AQIP sets the date of its next re-affirmation of accreditation in 7 years.
- Re-affirmation of accreditation every 7 years, based on pattern of participation that provides evidence of dedication to continuous improvement *and* a pattern of results that indicates the commitment is paying off.
- No single visit or event precipitates or causes re-affirmation



AQIP three synchronous cycles:

- One Year Cycle
 - AQIP Institutions select and declare 3-4 action projects and provide annual updates using AQIP's online Action Project Directory.
- Four Year Cycle
 - AQIP Institutions submit an up to date Systems Portfolio every four years. RRCC submitted our first portfolio June, 2008. The portfolio was reviewed and found to meet all HLC criteria in OCT 2008
- Seven Year Cycle
 - AQIP Quality Assurance review visit to the institution occurs every seven years to confirm the improvements described in the other cycles documents. RRCC expects our first Quality Check Up visit during the 2009-10 school year.

By Joan Smith

Action Projects



RRCC's First Action Projects:

- Faculty Advising Project
- Tutors Without Borders
- Student Assessment

2009 Strategy Forum

- Strategy Forum: May 20 – 22
 - Part of the AQIP accreditation process is the Strategy Forum. During the three day conference, college and university teams meet to generate and test new improvement strategies.
- RRCC Strategy Team:
 - Christie Burton, Michele Haney, Karen Jaramillo, Colleen Jorgensen, Sheryl Scharnikow, Joan Smith, Bruce Walthers, Doug Yates

What can you do?



- Complete the online RRCC Vision, Mission, Values Survey.
- Encourage your students to complete the online RRCC Vision, Mission, Values Survey.



AQIP

- Project-based activity
- Directly connected to accreditation
- Directly connected to strategic planning
- Allows for continuous improvement