



## Introduction/Overview

In April 2004, Moraine Valley Community College was accepted into AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program). The college decided to pursue this reaccreditation option because it fits with our focus on continuous improvement. The AQIP (a-quip) reaccreditation program, as one of the two reaccreditation options offered to schools accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), is structured around quality improvement principles and processes. Participation in AQIP involves the following structured goal-setting, networking, and accountability activities:

- **Action Projects** – These projects create a foundation for an institution’s improvement initiatives and demonstrate the vitality of its commitment to quality. AQIP institutions commit to three to four projects that will move it closer to being the institution it wants to be. At least one Action Project must relate directly to helping students learn. MVCC is initiating the following three action projects during 2009-10:
  - General Education Assessment
  - Counseling and Advising
  - Developmental Education
- **Systems Portfolio** – This document presents an overview of our institution that explains the major systems we use to accomplish our mission. AQIP institutions assemble a Systems Portfolio every four years and answer questions under nine AQIP characteristics. MVCC submitted our first Systems Portfolio in May 2008 and received our Systems Appraisal Feedback report in October 2008.

Common continuous improvement themes included in the report feedback include:

- We can benefit from a comprehensive, systematic, integrated, cohesive system to 1) clearly define and align processes, 2) measure effectiveness, 3) analyze the measurement data we’ve collected, and 4) use it to improve processes.
  - Benchmarking against other institutions, which is a common practice in continuous improvement, is also repeatedly recommended as something we should pursue.
- **Quality Check-up** – A team of two or three trained evaluators conduct a visit to:
    - a. affirm the accuracy of the institution’s Systems Portfolio;
    - b. review Action Projects and strategies identified to capitalize on the strengths and opportunities for improvement;
    - c. assure continuing quality improvement commitment; and
    - d. confirm the institution’s compliance with accreditation expectations.

Moraine Valley’s first Quality Check-Up Visit, held in February 2009, was resounding success. The AQIP visitors reported that continuous improvement is clearly a priority that is understood and put into practice at Moraine Valley Community College.

For a full description and timeline of all of Moraine Valley’s AQIP activities, visit our web site at: <http://www.morainevalley.edu/AQIP/default.htm>