

# SELFSTUDY 2010

spring  
2009

Cleveland State University  
*engagedlearning*

THE  
SUCCESS  
OF OUR UNIVERSITY  
IS MEASURED BY  
THE  
SUCCESS  
OF OUR STUDENTS.

Michael Schwartz

## ▶ A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

For more than 100 years, American institutions of higher education have voluntarily sought accreditation to assure quality and improvement. Cleveland State University is currently in the process of seeking re-accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission, a non-governmental organization granting peer-reviewed accreditation and membership in the Higher Learning Commission and North Central Association. This collaborative effort involving faculty, staff, administration, and students is designed to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for continued improvement. Over the next 18 months, an energetic effort will be made to collect data that will inform all of our constituents about the state of our university and the direction in which it can go. In doing so, we are meeting accountability requirements as well strengthening the effective ways in which our university fulfills its mission.

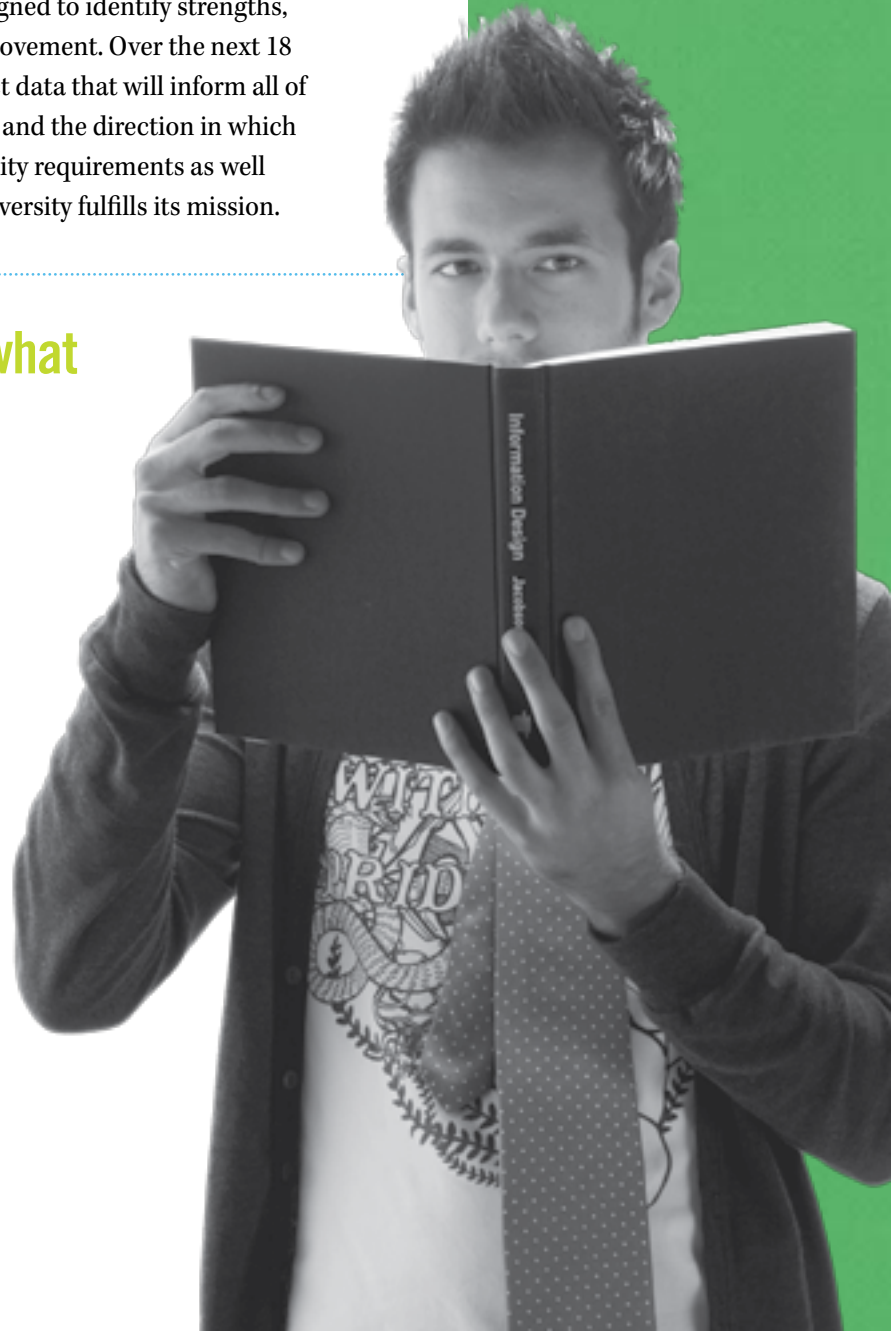
## What is accreditation and what does it have to do with me?

### What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process whereby an outside organization [North Central Association (NCA) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for Ohio] certifies a college or university as meeting certain requirements of excellence. Accredited colleges and universities have proven to their peers that they are deeply committed to educational quality and improvement.

### What are the HLC and NCA?

NCA is an organization of colleges and universities from 19 states, including Ohio. Cleveland State University is a member of NCA. The HLC is a main division of NCA that accredits member colleges and universities.



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## History of Cleveland State University Accreditation

CSU was first accredited in 1966 by the NCA. Our institution was last re-accredited in 2000.

### What does this self study involve?

The self study is a process during which faculty, staff, administrators, and students take a very close look at the entire university, documenting its strengths and its challenges in a written report. The process is divided into 5 phases: 1) organizing the various teams that will collect data to be used in the report and to write the initial drafts, 2) collection of the data, 3) writing of the initial drafts, 4) assimilating the drafts into a large, comprehensive report, 5) dissemination of the draft to the entire University community for feedback, last revisions made, submittal to the HLC.

### Who is affected by the Self Study?

All constituents of the University: students, faculty, administration, staff, alumni, and community partners. Not only is feedback essential from all constituents for the writing of the report, but *working for or being connected to an accredited university is crucial*. Here are some related reasons:

- **Quality Education:** accredited colleges and universities deliver high quality educational programs.
- **Financial Aid:** accredited schools receive student financial aid dollars.
- **Transfer:** most schools will only accept transfer credits from an accredited school.
- **Graduate School:** most graduate programs will only accept students with degrees from accredited schools.
- **Overall school climate:** being associated with an accredited institution of higher education energizes faculty, administrators, staff, and students alike, in ways that support effective teaching and productive learning.

## When does CSU submit the report to HLC and what happens next?

The report will be finished, and submitted to HLC by August 2010. Next, a team of Consultant Evaluators, trained to review the self study report, will visit the University in October 2010. They will interview students, faculty, and staff; read and review documents and data; and tour the campus. The purpose of the visit is to validate the evidence and examples contained in the written report and to make recommendations to HLC concerning continued accreditation.

### When will CSU be notified that re-accreditation has been approved by HLC?

During the spring semester of 2011.

### Self Study 2010 Steering Committee

Since September 2008, the Self Study 2010 Steering Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis. The committee is made up of 13 faculty, administrators, and a student representative. See the back page for Committee members and contact information.

### How can I get more involved?

The self study process is meant to reflect the opinions, values, and experiences of all students, faculty, staff, and administrators. In the spring of 2010, a final draft of the self study report will be available to the entire CSU community. We encourage you to read this draft and to provide feedback. In addition, there is representation from the student body on the Self Study Steering Committee. Please contact R.D. Nordgren (r.nordgren@csuohio.edu) or any member of the Steering Committee if you would like more information on how to get involved.



# ➤ Self Study for Accreditation 2010 Timeline

The Self Study process is divided into 5 phases. Currently, we are in Phase 2 where data are collected and the first drafts of reports supporting the 180+ Examples of Evidence are written.

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## Phase 1 Orientation and Planning

### September 2008 - December 2008

Kick Off on September 11 with John Taylor from NCA. Consult with other institutions regarding process. Steering Committee and Subcommittees organize to collect data based on Higher Learning Commission criteria, core components, and evidence.

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## Phase 2 Information Gathering and Analysis

### January 2009 – May 2009

Data collection by subcommittees which will begin writing drafts for report based on data collected.

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## Phase 3 Syntheses and Reporting

### June 2009 – October 2009

Subcommittees prepare final drafts of reports. At this point, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges are identified. The reports they submit in October 2009 will become “evidence” in the **accreditation resource room**.

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## Phase 4 Integration and Dissemination

### November 2009 – January 2010

Steering committee reviews and discusses the reports submitted by the subcommittees in October 2009.

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## Phase 5 Dissemination, Feedback, Revision, and Submission

### February 2010 – May 2010

Coordinators draft the self-study document, seek widespread feedback from all constituencies, revise the self-study document, prepare electronic and hard copies, and **submit the self-study to the Higher Learning Commission on July 1, 2010** for distribution to visiting-team members.

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## Site Visit

### Fall 2010 (TBD by the Higher Learning Commission)

A team of evaluators from other institutions, representing the Higher Learning Commission, visits campus, verifies information in the self-study, and meets with individuals and groups, in preparation for issuing the team’s report.

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# SELFSTUDY2010

## CORE PLANNING TEAM

- **Gitanjali Kaul**, *Co-Chair of Self Study*, Vice Provost, Planning, Assessment, and Information Resource Management (g.kaul@csuohio.edu, 216.523.7402)
- **R.D. Nordgren**, *Co-Chair of Self Study*, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Foundations (r.nordgren@csuohio.edu, 216.523.7499)
- **Marius Boboc**, Associate Professor, Office of Student Learning Assessment (m.boboc@csuohio.edu, 216.875.9712)

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- **Abdul Ameen**, Student Government Association Representative
- **Marius Boboc**, Associate Professor, Office of Student Learning Assessment (m.boboc@csuohio.edu, 216.875.9712)
- **Mike Droney**, Vice President for Administration (m.droney@csuohio.edu, 216.687.2155)
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- **R.D. Nordgren**, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Foundations (r.nordgren@csuohio.edu, 216.269.7499)
- **Rob Spademan**, Assistant Vice President, University Marketing and Admissions (r.spademan@csuohio.edu, 216.523.7284)
- **Glenda Thornton**, Director, University Library (g.thornton@csuohio.edu, 216.687.2475)

## WEB SITE

<http://www.csuohio.edu/committees/selfstudy2010>

### THE CSU EXPERIENCE

## engaged learning™

- 8 Colleges,  
6 undergraduate,  
2 graduate/law
- 570 Faculty,  
92 percent with highest  
degree in their field
- 65 Fulbright Scholars
- 15,400 Students,  
64 percent undergraduate  
and 36 percent graduate/  
professional
- 57 percent full-time,  
40 percent part-time
- 200 majors and programs,  
70 graduate level
- Affordable quality:  
\$8,000 annual tuition
- \$300 million campus  
improvement master plan
- Downtown, Westlake, Solon
- 300+ on-line courses
- NCAA athletics
- 10,000 enrollments in  
Continuing Education  
programs