EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Institution Name: Hutchinson Community College
City, State: Hutchinson, KS
Site Visit Date: March 6 – 9, 2011
Institution Type: X Associate, _____ Baccalaureate/Graduate
____X____ Initial Accreditation, _____ Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Site Visit Team Members:
1) Ed Vineyard, Chair
2) Gary Mrozinski
3) Trina Lynch-Jackson

Key summary findings from the self-study review (feedback) report:

1. The most important strengths or outstanding practices are:

- Dedicated Full-time Faculty. The full-time faculty are well-qualified and energetic about their teaching. They fully support the mission of their division and of the College at large.
- Strong Community Support. HCC and the business division have a good relationship with the community at large. The Advisory Boards for the programs serve as an excellent link between the needs of the area and the curriculum of the college.
- Equipment and Facilities. The business division faculty have access to all appropriate technology in their offices, classrooms, and labs.
- Transfer of Coursework. HCC business graduates are welcome at the surrounding four-year universities and do not have to repeat or make-up credit hours upon transfer.
- Outcomes Assessment Plan. The new assessment plan is well-designed and there is a high-level of satisfaction from the faculty with the ease of use of the in-house developed software application for collecting outcomes data. This has removed a significant barrier in the implementation of the College’s assessment plan.
- Advising. HCC has a strong student advisement system that helps insure that students are taking the classes they for graduation and/or transfer.
2. The most significant opportunities for improvement are:

- **Academic documentation on Part-Time faculty.** During the examination of faculty credentials it was found that numerous personnel files were missing official transcripts. In addition, for those faculty listed as “professionally qualified” in the self-study, documentation was not provided for the two areas required by the criteria. These issues may be partially created by the fact that the business chair does not have oversight of the hiring of part-time, online, and weekend faculty.
- **Outcomes Assessment Trend Data.** The college’s expanded outcomes assessment plan is too new to have provided much data that can be used for quality improvement.

**Additional Comments:**

The staff and faculty at HCC were welcoming to the team and provided all of the support needed. All information that was asked for was provided (if possible).

While the business unit appears to be meeting its stated goals and mission, the team did identify a few standards that are not being met in Criterion 4 and 5. As noted above in the OFI’s, documentation was missing on numerous part-time faculty as well as on those faculty claimed as “professionally qualified.” The business chair does know of this shortcoming and it is expected that by the time the College gets the team report to review, they will have the documentation to send back to ACBSP. HCC also does not fully meet criteria 4.1 due to the newness of their outcomes assessment plan (not enough trend data yet).

I would like to commend my team members, Gary and Trina, for their professionalism and commitment to ACBSP.

Respectfully submitted:

*Edwin R. Vineyard*