**Welcome Page Narrative**

**Columbia College’s 2012 Reaccreditation Website**
Welcome to our 2012 reaccreditation website! It features links to our self-study and evidence and illustrates our commitment to the accreditation standards of the Higher Learning Commission.

Columbia College’s last comprehensive evaluation was conducted in 2002. Columbia College has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and a member of the North Central Association since 1918. In preparation for the comprehensive review by the Higher Learning Commission, Columbia College has worked diligently to provide evidence of support to meet or exceed standards.

**Columbia College’s Reaccreditation Approach**
Dr. Terry Smith, Executive Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs (EVP/DAA), has led the process for Columbia College by developing a strategy that incorporates critical self-reflection, with the goal of improving institutional effectiveness in general and the student experience in particular. In 2005, the College adopted HLC Accreditation Criteria and Core Components as the framework for the institutional strategic plan. The College has conducted institutional and departmental planning simultaneously with preparation for reaccreditation. Columbia College’s strategic plan is our self-study, and our self-study is our strategic plan.

**How the Work is Organized:**

**Steering Committee:**
Coordinates the reaccreditation effort. It meets monthly and is comprised of the criterion committee co-chairs, the Director of Institutional Research, the Director of Compliance and the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs. It is chaired by the EVP/DAA.

**Criterion Committee:**
Evaluates the Core Components of a Criterion, gathers evidence to show the college meets the criterion and drafts the self-study report narrative. It is co-chaired by an Administrative Council member and a full-time faculty member. Other members include a second full-time faculty member, a staff member, a representative of the Adult Higher Education Division, and a member of the Board of Trustees. There is a committee for each of the five criterion.

**Documentation Committee:**
Organizes evidence and creates the virtual resource room. This committee is comprised of the Director of Institutional Research, the Director of Compliance, the Chief Information Officer and the Director of Stafford Library.

**Executive Committee**
Plans and implements the March consultant visit and the October comprehensive visit.
Columbia College at a Glance:
Founded in 1851, Columbia College has been helping students advance their lives through higher education for more than 150 years. As a private, non-profit, coeducational liberal arts and sciences college, the College takes pride in its small classes, experienced faculty and quality educational programs.

More than 1,000 students attend the Day Campus, and more than 1000 working adults attend the Evening Campus, also located in Columbia, MO.

More than 10,000 students attend the 34 Nationwide Campuses around the country. The Nationwide Campuses serve working adults, including military personnel and their families, through evening and online classes.

The Online Campus offers more than 800 classes and 23 online degrees. More than 21,000 students take at least one online class at the College each year.

In addition to offering associate certificates, and bachelor’s degrees, the college also offers master’s degrees.

Related Reaccreditation Links:
Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association: http://www.ncahlc.org

Columbia College’s Current Statement of Affiliation:
http://www.ncahlc.org/component/com_directory/Action,ShowBasic/itemid,/instid,1421/

Public Comment
If you want to send a comment to the Higher Learning Commission you can do so by writing them at:

Public Comment on Columbia College
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604