The Centrality of an Institutional Mission in HLC Reaccreditation
Session Objectives

- Demonstrate the centrality of mission statements in institutional self study
- Understand the importance for institutional clarity in understanding and appreciation of the institutional mission
Introduction

- Consultant Evaluator for 15 years
- Perform 2-3 reaccreditation visits a year
- Serve as team chair on self study visits
- Trained to review online programs
- Served as the self study chair for UIS’ 2007 reaccreditation
Introduction

- Sangamon State University was founded in 1969 as an upper-division institution
- Teaching and Public Affairs were the cornerstones
- In 1995, joined the University of Illinois as one campus of a three-campus system
  - 1998 launched the first doctoral program
  - 1999 began an aggressive online initiative
  - 2001 initiated a 4-year honors curriculum
  - 2006 expanded 4-year curriculum
Introduction

- Focused planning initiatives – 1990s and early 2000s
- Comprehensive strategic planning – 2004
- The campus was energized by a new mission statement that:
  - Represented traditional components of the institution
  - Portrayed UIS’ evolving vision and culture
  - Truly represented the “heart” of the institution
  - The new mission statement was used to frame our self study and write the reaccreditation report
HLC Criterion

- Mission and Integrity
- Preparing for the Future
- Student Learning and Effective Teaching
- Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge
- Engagement and Service
Centrality of Mission

• Self study is about demonstrating how you are “living your mission”

• Despite which criterion you are addressing, mission is always at center stage

• It is more than having documents and stating your mission – it is demonstrating the integrity of your mission in what you do
Centrality of Mission

- How does the mission define, guide and shape:
  - Student Learning
  - Institutional and educational priorities
  - Resources
  - Commitments to constituents
  - Diversity
Mission and Future Planning

- What is the institutional capacity to achieve its mission in the future?
- Is the institution posed to meet the demands of the future and the impact of these demands on its mission?
Mission and Teaching/Learning

- Are learning outcomes for the institution aligned with the mission?
- Are results of teaching and learning evidence that the institution is meeting its mission?
Mission and Acquisition of Knowledge

- Does the mission permeate the ways the institution promotes a life of learning?
- Is the curriculum aligned with the institutional mission?
Mission and Engagement

- Does the institution integrate all of its constituencies in assessing whether it meets its mission?
- Does the institutional mission reflect a responsiveness to the external world?
Conclusion
Understanding your Institutional Mission

Conceptual Webbing Exercise:
1. Engage in New Worlds of Thought
2. Embrace Responsible Citizenship
3. Educated for a Future that can only be imagined