

Quality Quotes: AQIP News You Can Use (Vol. 4)
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In this issue of Quality Quotes, we'll highlight Category One (Sub-Category 3) *Academic Program Design: HCC "focuses on developing and revising programs to meet stakeholders' needs."*

Have you ever thought about how we determine which programs and courses we should offer to meet student and employer needs? There are three different questions we must ask:

1. Do our courses transfer? The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) coordinates meetings among faculty who decide whether courses transfer among all 2- and 4-year Kansas public colleges. During these meetings, held at various locations around the state, instructors also decide what changes should be made to the courses to be sure they prepare students for success at Kansas universities. As of June 2016, over 70 courses have been through this review and are "guaranteed to transfer".
2. Do our career and technical programs meet employers' needs, and do our students succeed when they take specialized exams? Our faculty also works closely with other technical instructors across the state to create course and program requirements base on business and industry needs. Programs must be reviewed continually to be sure we provide students with skills and experience on current equipment and systems.
3. How do we serve our local community members? We must also ask our community partners what the college can do to meet their needs. Highland staff members who work in our 9-county service area regularly survey our neighbors to find out what non-credit activities and cultural events they enjoy, what groups could use our facilities for their meetings, and how we can help local job-seekers be "work-ready". They also participate in community organizations to create positive relationships between Highland and the communities we serve.

So...do we *"focus on developing and revising programs to meet stakeholders' needs"*?

At HCC, the *Curriculum and Instruction Committee* is responsible for reviewing new and revised programs and courses based on recommendations from faculty, staff, and community advisory groups.

In 2015-16, C & I members took action on 89 proposals, so we can answer "Yes!"