



**Academic  
Quality Improvement  
Program**

The Higher Learning Commission **NCA**

**Red Rocks Community College**

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**CONSTELLATION  
APPENDICES**

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**October 2004**

## APPENDIX A: AQIP Criteria & Principles of High Performance

**Note:** In-depth information on the Academic Quality Improvement Program, its processes, and its services can be found at [www.aqip.org](http://www.aqip.org).

### **AQIP CRITERIA (PROCESS GROUPS)**

**Helping Students Learn** identifies the shared purpose of all higher education organizations and is the priority of any institutional analysis. It focuses on the teaching-learning process within a formal instructional context, yet also addresses how your entire institution contributes to helping students learn and overall student development.

**Accomplishing Other Distinctive Objectives** addresses the processes that contribute to the achievement of your institution's major objectives, that complement student learning, and that fulfill other portions of your mission.

**Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs** examines how your institution works actively to understand student and other stakeholder needs.

**Valuing People** explores your commitment to the development of your faculty, staff, and administrators since the efforts of all are required for institutional success.

**Leading and Communicating** addresses how your institution's leadership and communication structures, networks, and processes guide your institution in setting directions, making decisions, seeking future opportunities, and building and sustaining a learning environment.

**Supporting Institutional Operations** addresses the variety of your institutional support processes that help to provide an environment in which learning can thrive.

**Measuring Effectiveness** examines how your institution collects, analyzes, and uses information to manage itself and to drive performance improvement.

**Planning Continuous Improvement** examines your institution's planning processes and how your strategies and action plans are helping you achieve your mission and vision.

**Building Collaborative Relationships** examines your institution's relationships and partnerships--current and potential--to analyze how they contribute to the institution's accomplishing its mission.

### **AQIP PRINCIPLES OF HIGH PERFORMANCE**

**Focus:** A mission & vision driven by students' and other stakeholders' needs.

**Involvement:** Broad-based faculty, staff, and administrative engagement and participation.

**Leadership:** Leaders and leadership systems that support a quality culture.

**Learning:** A learning-centered environment.

**People:** Respect for and willingness to invest in people (faculty, staff, administration).

**Collaboration:** Collaboration and a shared institutional focus.

**Agility:** Ability, flexibility, and responsiveness to changing needs and conditions.

**Foresight:** Planning for innovation and improvement.

**Information:** Fact-based evidence-gathering and thinking to support analysis and decision-making.

**Integrity:** Integrity and responsible institutional citizenship