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Ouachita Technical College • Malvern, Arkansas  
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## College Launches Self-Study

On January 23, Ouachita Tech “kicked-off” its efforts to maintain accreditation status at an All-Hands Meeting. Employees were briefed on the self-study process and were assigned to study committees.

The college has been affiliated since 1994 with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools ([www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org)). To have its current accreditation re-affirmed, OTC must complete a self-evaluation and a series of peer evaluations during the 2010-2011 academic year; the last comprehensive evaluation was in 2000-2001.

The college will be collecting and analyzing evidence related to the five Criteria for Accreditation and will identify strengths and opportunities for improvement within each. Study committees have been assigned one of the five Criteria as follows:

1. Mission and Integrity
2. Preparing for the Future

3. Student Learning and Effective Teaching
4. Acquisition, Discovery, and the Application of Knowledge
5. Engagement and Service

June Prince and Dr. Sharon Seals are serving as coordinators for the self study. Committee chairs are Jerry Little, Criterion 1; Carla Crutchfield, Criterion 2; Terri Colananni, Criterion 3; Linda Johnson, Criterion 4; Amber Childers, Criterion 5.

The self evaluation will culminate in a Self-Study Report that encompasses each study committee’s evaluation. On September 20-22, 2010, a team of four HLC consultant-evaluators will visit the campus to verify the findings of the Self-Study Report and to meet with college stakeholders. The Evaluation Team’s findings will be reviewed by a Readers’ Panel of three peers; all recommendations will be forwarded to an Institutional Actions Council that will make the final recommendation to the HLC Board. Board action is expected by February 2011.

## Fall and Spring Enrollments Set New Records

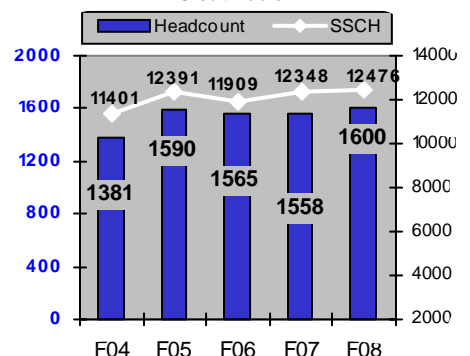
Fall and spring semester enrollments for 2008-09 have set new highs. Previous highs occurred in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006.

Fall 2008 enrollment was 1600 students in 12,476 student semester credit hours (SSCH). Spring 2009 enrollment is 1483 students in 12,167 SSCH. Previous highs were Fall 2005 with 1,590 students enrolled in 12,391 SSCH and Spring 2006 with 1,444 students in 11,533 SSCH.

Comparisons with last fall and spring indicate a fall increase of three percent in enrollment and a one percent increase in SSCH and a spring increase of four percent in enrollment

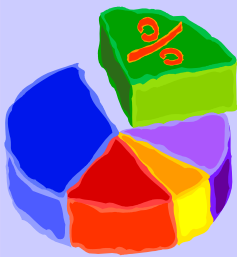
and a four percent increase in SSCH. The chart below illustrates historical fall enrollment data since Fall 2000.

OTC Fall Headcount and Student Semester Credit Hours



*"If we knew what we were doing it would not be called 'research' would it?"*

*—Albert Einstein*



## College Implements Achieving the Dream Strategies

In June, Ouachita Technical College will complete its first of four years in the national Achieving the Dream initiative funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education and, in Arkansas, by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. In addition to financial support of \$100,000 per year, this program provides technical, professional development, and consultative support to help more students succeed.

After analyzing OTC data related to student success, three priorities to address were chosen. They are:

1. Increase student success in Intermediate Algebra (31 percent of fall 2004-summer 2007 IA students received a "D"; 44 percent completed with a "C" or better);
2. Increase student success of all students while narrowing the gap between African Americans and all students (41 percent of all fall students and 34 percent of African-American students were retained F04 to F05; 44 percent of fall 2004 cohort graduated, transferred, or re-enrolled);
3. Increase African American success in Basic Composition (F04 to Su07 African American success was 54 percent as compared to total population's success of 70 percent; African American success rates in Basic Grammar were 66 percent and in Basic Composition were 54 percent).

The college's ATD Coach Dr. John Brockman and OTC staff members Dr. Cortez Henderson, Dr. Sharon Seals, and Kathy Lazenby at the Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute in San Francisco on February 18. Others attending from OTC included Dr. Barry Ballard, Pat Simms, and June Prince.

Strategies selected to address these three priorities are as follows:

1. Pilot a required 240 minute per week (as opposed to a 150 minutes per week) math lab class; pilot a traditional, teacher-led 150 minute per week class; compare results and implement more successful intervention.
2. Review and revise first-year experience components (orientation, advising, tutoring, etc.) and then implement a comprehensive "first-year experience"; implementation of Men of a Mission (MoM), a learning community/service association for African-American males (facilitated by Billy Francis).
3. Pilot a combination Basic Grammar/Basic Composition class and, if successful, eliminate Basic Grammar; conduct focus groups with African Americans to collect input on writing topics; train faculty in writing pedagogies that contextualize grammar instruction within students' own writing.

Two- and four-year goals have been established for each priority in order to evaluate the success of selected interventions. The strategies were implemented in fall 2008 and upon completion of the academic year, preliminary data will be reviewed to determine effectiveness of the interventions and next steps.







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*Direct questions or comments  
concerning this newsletter to  
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### SOS is Coming!

Student Opportunities Seminar (SOS), an intervention to address Achieving the Dream Strategy 2 is currently under development. This one-hour course will be required of all first-time, full-time students in order to facilitate their success. Please respond to Kathy Lazenby with five items, ideas, tools, information, etc., that you feel should be included in SOS by Friday, March 13.

**Achieving the Dream Indicator 3:  
Successfully Complete All Attempted Courses by Cohort**

■ % complete courses ■ % complete courses with C or better

