MIDDLE STATES TEAM VISIT
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 4-7

In January, the SCCC Middle States Steering Committee submitted the College's Self-Study Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This document has been forwarded to members of the Visiting Team, who will visit SCCC March 4-7 to assess the quality of the institution's instruction, services, and offerings. Team Chair, Dr. Karen Stout, President of Montgomery County Community College in Pennsylvania, will lead the visitation process, and her 10-member team will meet with various College groups during their stay, including the Board of Trustees, the Executive Council, and the Middle States Steering Committee, as well as members of the administration, faculty and student body. The College community is urged to make every effort to attend any events scheduled with the Visiting Team. (Open simulcast meetings for faculty, staff and administrators are currently being scheduled. Time and locations will be announced when these plans are finalized.)

The College community may access the final Self-Study report posted online at the URL highlighted below. Print copies are available at the campus libraries and campus deans’ offices and at all academic chair and campus activities offices. This document is the culmination of extraordinary efforts made by hundreds of individuals, including the Middle States Steering Committee, the Working Groups, and members of the faculty, administration, and student body.

For exceptional graphic design and layout of a Middle States Self-Study, the award goes to Laurey Russo, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Eastern Campus.

Thanks to the administrators, faculty and staff who took care of technical needs and made the February 7th college-wide simulcast a success: Kevin McCoy, Stephen J. Clark, Josephine Pignataro, James McHugh, Lawrence Perlman, Shaun Gerien, Ray Reardon, Pete DiGregorio, Ed Hassildine, Laurie Hennessy, Sue DeMasi, Charles Wittreich, Jason Kankel, David Quinn and Kevin Peterman.

http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu/MiddleStates/docs/SCCC_self_study.pdf
Almost There

The Middle States Self-Study project adhered to the timetable established last year. From November 2005 through May 2006, working group members completed drafts of charge questions and reports. The first draft of the Self Study was written in August 2006, and distributed to the college community for input in September. Activities will culminate with the Middle States Team Visit on March 4-7, 2007 and the MSCHE action in June 2007.

| January 2007       | Final Self-Study written and printed.  
|                   | Self-Study mailed to Middle States Commission on Higher Education |
| February 2007      | Campus Forums & College-wide Simulcast |
| March 2007         | Visit from Middle States team, March 4-7 |
| June 2007          | Middle States action |

Middle States Commission on Higher Education -- Evaluation Team

Karen Stout, CHAIR: President, Montgomery County Community College, Pennsylvania  
Madan Capoor: Former Executive Director of Research and Planning (Retired), Middlesex County College, Edison, New Jersey  
Patricia M. Cheek: Dean of Learning Resources/Academic Support Services, Chesapeake College, Maryland  
Robert K. Clark: Professor, Allied Health/Science, Cumberland County College, New Jersey  
William F. Ford: Professor of Psychology; Coordinator of Psychology, Bucks County Community College, Pennsylvania  
David P. James: Dean, Educational Development, Degree/Extension Centers & Special Programs, Prince George’s Community College, Maryland  
Johanna H. Kobran: Professor, English/Philosophy, Brookdale Community College, New Jersey  
Joseph C. Kudless: Professor of History Emeritus, Raritan Valley Community College, New Jersey  
Karen A. Roseberry: Dean of Student Development, Montgomery College, Maryland  
Michael Yosifon: Vice President for Financial Affairs & Treasurer, Union County College, New Jersey

Working with the Team, Representing the State University of New York:  
Patricia Pietropaolo: Assistant Provost, Community College Education and Community Colleges, SUNY
Getting it Done Behind the Scenes

Kate Dowling’s efforts on behalf of the Self-Study process have been of immeasurable service to the college. Dowling works in Computer Information Systems, where she holds the position of Management Analyst. “I’m the Administrative Help Desk,” she said, explaining that her duties include Web site work, assisting with the integration of any new system the college implements, and daily trouble shooting. A member of the Steering Committee, she originally was assigned to the “Leadership and Governance” Working Group, but became the person who helped the Coordinating Council with the sophisticated technology such a project demanded. When an interactive Middle States Web site was proposed, Dowling was assigned to be intermediary for its use, demonstrating to Steering Committee members how to upload documents, use the committee calendars, and participate in threaded discussion of posted items. Dowling also scanned program reviews and other print files for posting on the Web site, acted as the software resource for MSWord and pdf files incorporated within the Self-Study document, and helped

Judy Koodin create the Appendices Index as both a pdf file on a CD with hyperlinks to the attached documents. Dowling’s most recent contributions include updating organizational charts, repairing hyperlinks on the college’s Web pages, and helping Self-Study Writer Sue DeMasie with pagination on the finished document. She proudly noted Middle States Liaison Dr. Michael Kiphart’s remark that “the Web site was a great piece, and he would have other schools look at it.” Dowling views the college’s first college-wide accreditation process as a remarkable accomplishment. “I think the Coordinating Council did a great job putting together what had formerly been multiple processes. Meetings and Campus Forums were scheduled across all campuses, committees paid special attention to have tri-campus representation, and issues of our three different identities were always heard.” She also found the experience of working with the Steering Committee a rewarding one. “I was able to connect with members of the college community I barely knew before. I am glad to see that so many people care about the college and its future.” Dowling believes the college is extremely well prepared for the March visit. “I hope the Team will be able to see the college as the asset to Suffolk County that we believe it to be. As for the long term, I would expect that many of us will be interested in any recommendations the team may make for improvements in our services to students.”

The Middle States Project received a boost from the efforts of Allen Jacobs, College Associate Dean for Curriculum and Assessment. His normal duties, considerable in scope by themselves, include coordinating and facilitating curriculum development and assessment for the college, overseeing program reviews and general education assessments, assisting faculty with curriculum development, and submitting curricular proposals and revisions for SUNY approval. He was also involved in formulating the college’s response for Mission Review II. Despite all of these responsibilities, Jacobs managed to wedge Middle States activities into his schedule. He participated in the “Mission and Goals” Working Group and assisted the Coordinating Council when it began organizing the Working Groups’ drafts in spring 2006. “Whenever Judy, Candice, or John had questions relating to curriculum or assessment, they knew that I would know where to get the answers,” he said. Several times, Jacobs pored over the Self-Study document and offered comments on inaccuracies or omissions. Jacobs’ diverse administrative background prepared him well for the challenges posed by SCCC’s first three-campus accreditation. After graduating from Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978, he was employed as a veterinarian at a clinic in Brooklyn. From there, he moved on to teach veterinary science at SUNY Farmingdale. He came to Suffolk in 1994, when SCCC acquired the Farmingdale program. Jacobs served as an academic chair at Farmingdale, and he held the same position at SCCC for several years, after which he was asked to serve as Interim Assistant Dean of Math, Science, and Health at the Grant Campus. This position led him to a variety of administrative jobs, which included College-wide Associate Dean for Math and Science and Interim Dean of Faculty and Interim Campus Dean at Grant. When the former veterinarian was asked if he kept pets, Jacobs wryly remarked, “Unfortunately, I don’t have enough time for pets. Besides, I have a sense for how many problems animals can experience.” Jacobs cited the logistical challenge the college faced in preparing for a tri-campus accreditation. “Scheduling meetings is hard enough, but doing so with people from three campuses is even harder. It’s an amazing accomplishment that people from the three campuses were able to work together on this.” He noted that this collaborative effort gave Working Group members a better sense of what’s going on across the college and brought them closer to colleagues they hadn’t known beforehand. Speaking of the Coordinating Council, he said, “It’s obvious that they’re dedicated, caring people, and it’s inspiring to work with them. I can extend this statement to the Steering Committee; they’re people who care about the project and the institution.” Jacobs’ advice to the Steering Committee of 2017 is simple, yet daunting: “In the future, recommendations should be monitored on an ongoing basis and not [be left to] wait for the next accreditation. If there’s updated material out there, we need to monitor it. I have no doubt that this will happen.” He is optimistic about the outcome of the of the Team visit in March. “I expect that there will be a validation of the valuable work we’re doing. If there are any objective recommendations they have for the institution, I’m curious to know what their thoughts are.”

—submitted by Dr. Susan Fanning
A college-wide simulcast was held during common hour on February 7, 2007, in order to provide an arena for discussing the approaching Middle States team visit. The simulcast was hosted by the Campus Deans and featured President Shirley Robinson Pippins, SCCC Board of Trustees Chair William D. Moore and members of the Coordinating Council who answered questions posed by attendees from all three campuses. (photo: Shaun Gerien)