


The Accreditation Issue

Welcome to a new academic year! This month's [Research Matters newsletter issue](#) is dedicated to introducing the accreditation self-evaluation process through the lens of Institutional Research. The Office of Institutional Research (IR) contributes to the College's accreditation process by providing institutional statistics and assembling the data and evidence that supplement the narrative of the self-evaluation (formerly known as the "self-study") report.

We were fortunate enough to be able to speak with Randy Lawson about accreditation for our blog before he unexpectedly passed away. Randy, who served as the college's Accreditation Liaison Office, was amongst the state's most experienced and knowledgeable accreditation leaders. One of the takeaways from [our conversation with Randy](#) was the importance of having the campus community involved in the accreditation process. He encouraged people to get involved with the standard committees and the broader discussion. The college is gearing up for the 2016 self-evaluation and accreditation visit. If you'd like to get involved, please contact SMC's accreditation co-chairs, Erica LeBlanc (leblanc_eric@smc.edu) or Eve Adler (adler_eve@smc.edu).

We dedicate our accreditation-themed issue of *Research Matters* to Randy Lawson, a visionary leader, an extraordinary talent, and a source of inspiration for so many of us.

Sincerely,
Hannah Lawler
Dean of Institutional Research

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The *Research Matters* newsletter is an effort for Institutional Research to communicate with the campus community and build the research capacity of the college.



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