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TCC Earns Reaccreditation for Six Years

OCTOBER 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri - The Poplar Bluff Technical Career Center will continue its long-standing tradition of upholding full accreditation, ensuring that adult students can receive federal Title IV loans, grants and financial aid.

The TCC had to restart a rigorous compliance process after its previous regional accrediting agency—utilized by post-secondary education institutions in 19 states—dissolved in 2014.

The reaccreditation granted Thursday, Sept. 22, through the national Council on Occupational Education will remain effective for six years if annual benchmarks are met.

“I believe as an institution we have improved a lot of our processes that were previously known, but not necessarily followed in a structured manner or written in a course manual,” reflected Charles Kinsey, TCC director. “This high standard of documentation is designed to improve student success, and their ability to find gainful employment.”

Under the U.S. Department of Education, the COE requires institutions to maintain a program completion rate of at least 60 percent, a student placement rate in related industry or continued education of 70 percent, and a licensure pass rate of 70 percent if a license is required following graduation.

After more than two years of reviewing policies and practices, the COE issued provisional accreditation to the TCC over the summer. Officials cited only a handful of findings

which have since been addressed, including making the restroom facilities of the near 50-year old building ADA-compliant.

“The review team was very complimentary, telling us it was outstanding for a school going through an entirely new accreditation process to only have five minor issues identified—mostly paperwork related—and corrected within two months,” Kinsey said.

The director thanked his faculty for performing intensive self-studies over each of their programs, and his office staff namely retired administrative assistant Sherry Tinsley for sacrificing many lunch hours and evenings.

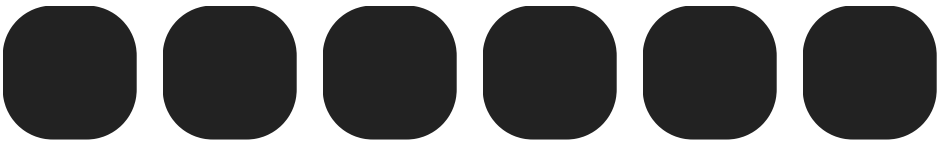
Pictured from left to right: HVAC instructor Ron Hedrick Jr., and adult students James Hayes, Eric Garris, Erika Lamb, Jeffery Higgs, Dale Denson, Dustin Urich and Charles Nunnery are a small representation of the beneficiaries of a fully accredited institution.

Photo and article submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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