

A Message from the President

Accreditation process reveals Whitman mosaic

Every 10 years, Whitman College is presented with an opportunity to assess its work and renew its resolve about what we do and how we do it. That opportunity comes in the form of an intensive, comprehensive self-study in anticipation of an accreditation visit by a team of experts in higher education.

These experts, drawn from the region and across the country, represent the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The purpose of their visit this past October was to review the college's practices and programs — to ensure, basically, that we are indeed doing what we say we are doing, not only in compliance with standards but also as a leading institution of higher learning.

A team of Whitman staff and faculty led by Associate Dean of the Faculty Tom Callister devoted the better part of three years to the accreditation project. They developed a self-study document and supplement from thousands of pages of information, providing the accreditation team with a wide-angle “snapshot” of present-day Whitman.

In turn, the accreditation team spent three full days on campus, poring over the self-study, requesting additional documents, meeting with faculty and staff, and leading discussion sessions with the Whitman community. The team left no stone unturned in its investigation.

As exhaustive — and sometimes exhausting — as the self-study process has been, it has also provided a perfect invigoration to the Whitman community. Why? Because it has given us a clear lens to observe — and appreciate — the

full scope of activity and vitality of the college. Whitman is a mosaic of so many things — talent, enterprise, creativity, camaraderie, attention to detail, pure hard work — and in the new light of our self-study, it is a beautiful thing to see.

While the final report of the accreditation team is yet to arrive, the benefit of the process is clear. The mosaic is in full view, and it includes all of you who've continued to support and care about this college. You are a vital part of the inlay, and I hope you feel as inspired as I do by that fact. Thank you, as always, for your commitment to Whitman, its values and its mission.



President George Bridges

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George S. Bridges".

George S. Bridges