So, You Got a Core Inquiry

...and not the good kind

One college's effective use of the formative-summative evaluation process. Attendees will learn how the peer review process was utilized to support institutional processes, decision-making, and governance, resulting in improved institutional effectiveness and a favorable comprehensive evaluation result.

Dr. Ryan Cornner, Superintendent/President
Ms. Ann Ransford, Trustee
Mr. Amir Nour, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services
Dr. Michael Ritterbrown, Vice President of Instruction/ALO
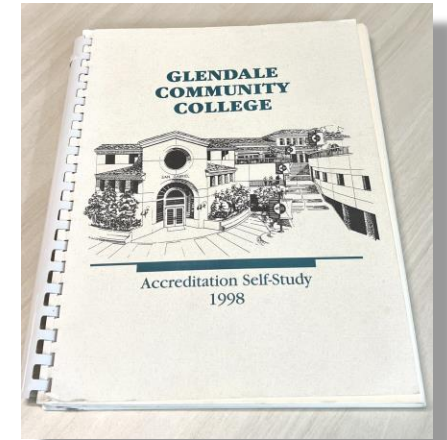Dr. Ed Karpp, Dean of Research, Planning, & Grants

GCC's experience in the accreditation process

- traditional
- formative-summative

1998 Cycle

- 158-page self study
- 11 recommendations
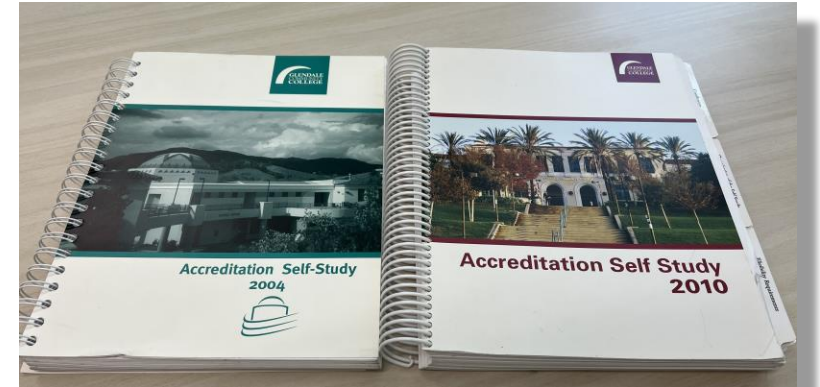- June 2004 – GCC's accreditation reaffirmed

2004 Cycle

- 213-page self study
- 10 recommendations including 4 planning recommendations
- June 2004 – GCC's accreditation reaffirmed

2010 Cycle

- 406-page self study
- 9 recommendations
- June 2010 – GCC put on warning based on 4 of the 9 recommendations
- Required to submit one Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2011 and a second Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2012
- June 2011 – GCC's accreditation reaffirmed and second Follow-Up Report was not required
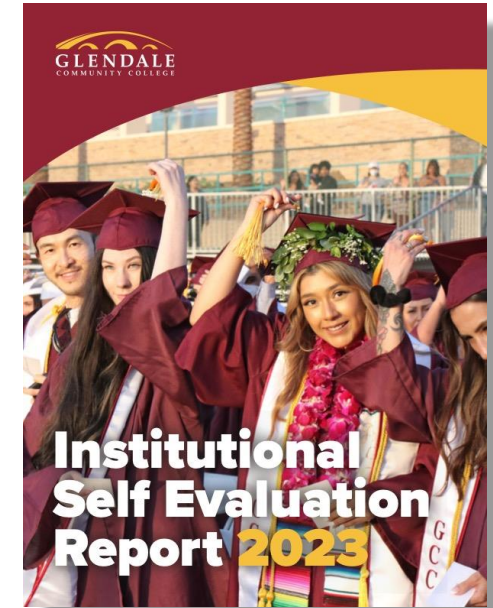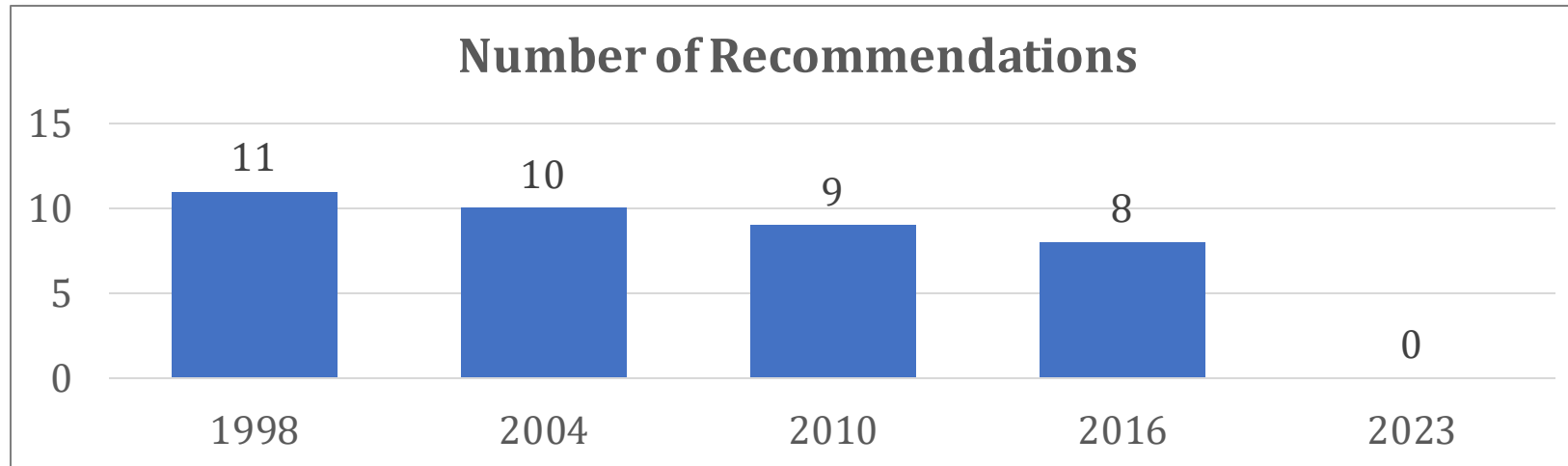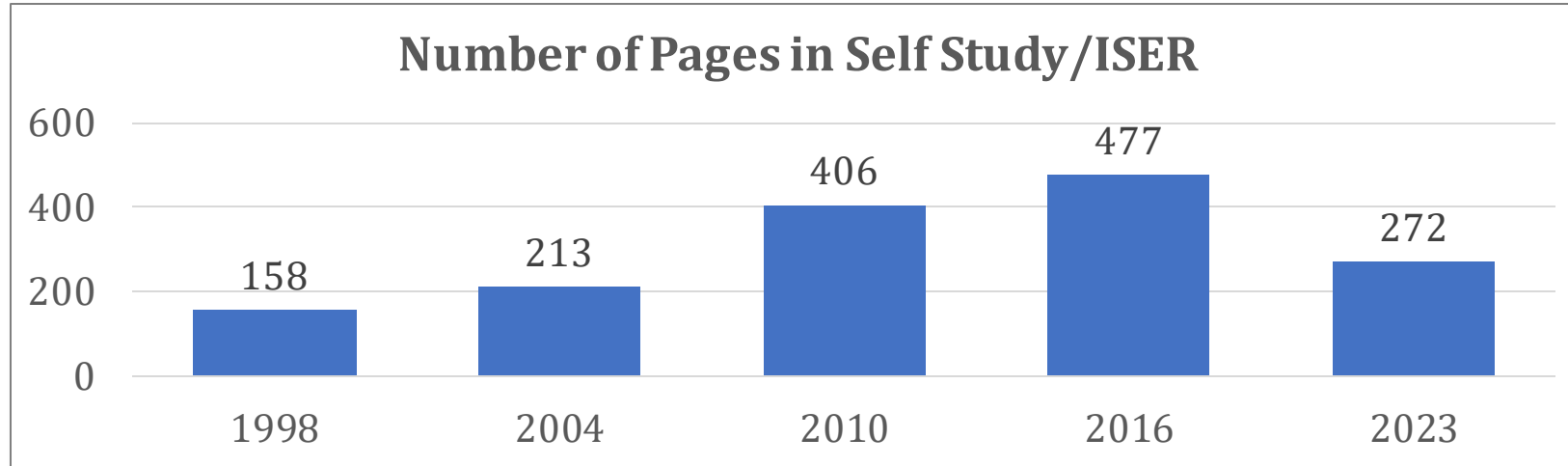
2016 Cycle
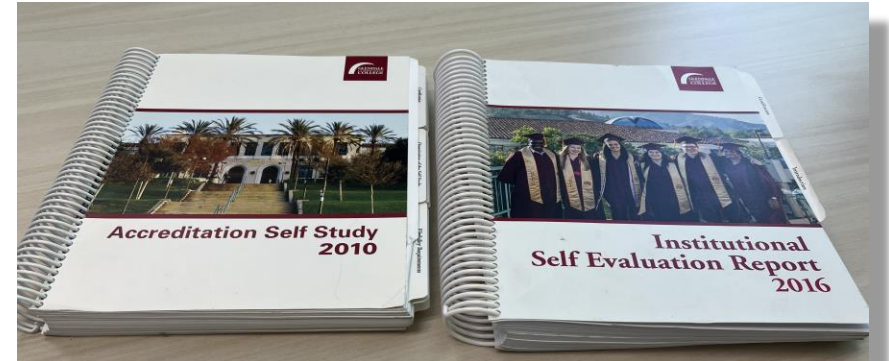
- 477-page ISER
- 8 recommendations (1 made by visiting team but removed by Commission)
- June 2017 – GCC's accreditation reaffirmed

2023 Cycle

- 272-page ISER (PDF)
- 2 core inquiries
- 0 recommendations
- January 2024 – GCC's accreditation reaffirmed

Number of Pages in Self Study/ISER

Year	Pages
1998	158
2004	213
2010	406
2016	477
2023	272

Number of Recommendations

Year	Recommendations
1998	11
2004	10
2010	9
2016	8
2023	0

Dr. Ed Karpp, Dean of Research, Planning, & Grants

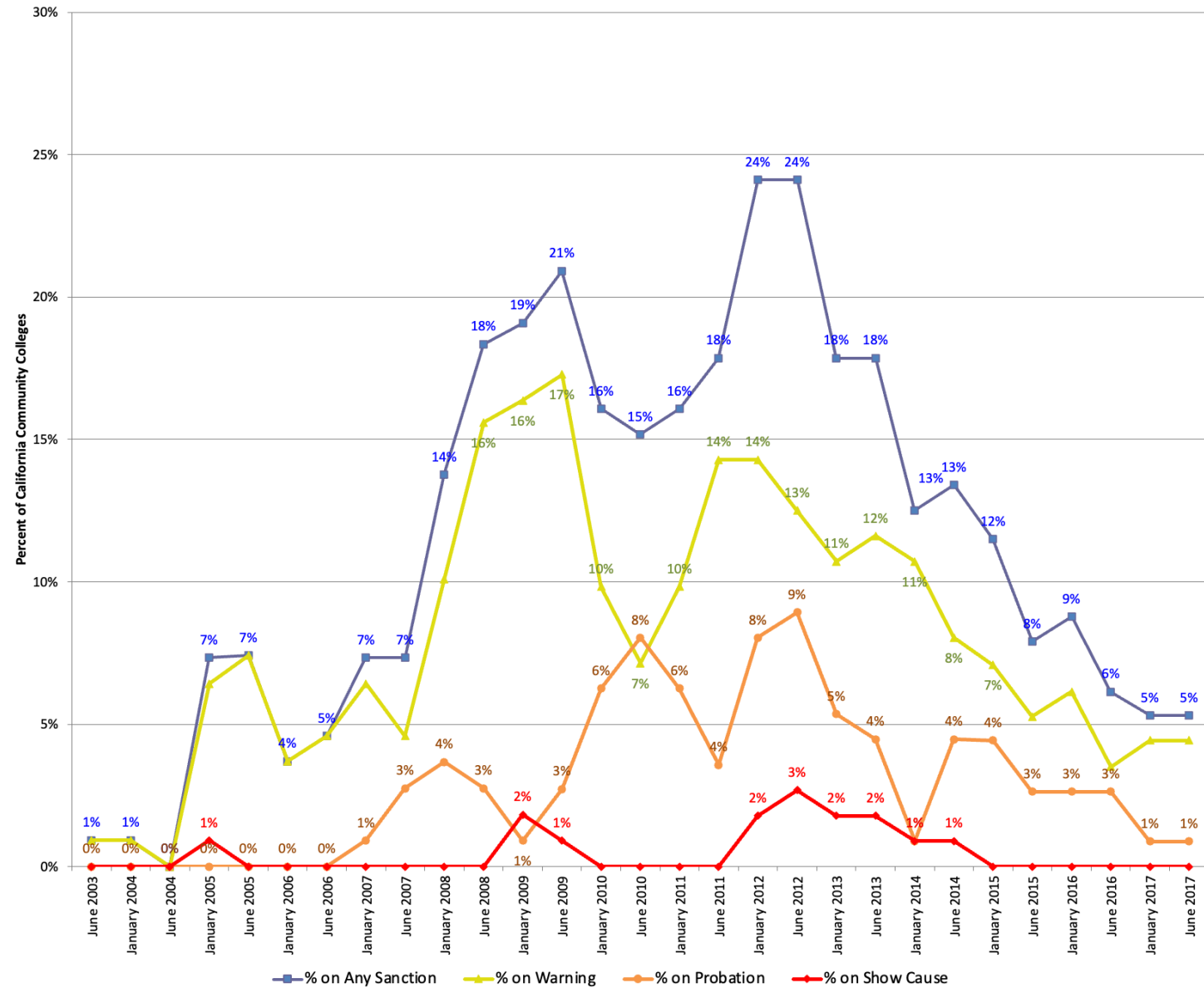Percent of California Community Colleges on ACCJC Sanction, 2003 to 2016

For our Institutional Planning Coordination Committee (IPCC), we tracked the sanction status of all California community colleges from 2003 through 2017

Dr. Ed Karpp, Dean of Research, Planning, & Grants

2023 Cycle: Core Inquiries

- **Core Inquiry 1:** GCC has established a plan to address the fiscal concerns delineated in the letter from ACCJC and audit findings; however, sections of the plan lack clarity of actions, measurable outcomes, and intended next steps for ensuring long term fiscal stability.

- **Core Inquiry 2:** The ISER and Open Forum brought forth a number of impressive examples of interdisciplinary collaboration focused on student experience leading to student success and reducing achievement gaps. The team seeks to understand the environment and structures that support innovation.

CEO Leadership

- background on fiscal conditions
- core inquiry (Financial Resources Standards and Standards IV.B.5 & IV.C.5)

CEO Leadership

- work with Board on developing priorities and identifying required actions

- established plan to address core inquiry and provided oversight
  - addressed audit findings
  - **reworked** budget development process, 5-yr projections tool
  - adjusted hiring practices (contracted services, staffing plan, retirement incentive)
  - oversaw enrollment management plan (reduced instructional hours to strengthen revenue)
  - oversaw in-reach marketing plan (for students who applied but did not enroll, College Promise Plus, etc.)

- open and transparent dialog, frequent check-ins, all hands on deck

- focus on the opportunity to improve

Governing Board

- professional development
- board's annual focus areas 2023-2024
- policy changes

Decision-Making Roles & Processes

- existing governance structure and process to communicate with stakeholders
  (about core inquiry and actions to address it, ensure transparency and participatory input)

- budget committee
  (increased accountability by adding faculty co-chair, emphasized open meetings with large attendance, explained fundamentals of the budget, held two meetings per month, reviewed cash flow statements, provided training on financial systems)

- frequent board meetings updates

- townhalls and presentations at various college meetings

- collective bargaining units (collaboration to support college's fiscal health)

- professional development (ACBO training, consultant for budget development and leadership growth, trustees)

Formative-Summative Process

- between virtual visit and on-site visit, GCC was able to implement actions that improved its financial condition and resolved the core inquiry

- the formative-summative approach improved GCC's institutional processes, decision-making, and governance, thereby improved its institutional effectiveness

Questions?