

Results of the 2009 Re-Accreditation Visits to IWHS

In late February 2009, two years of reflection, dialogue and planning by the faculty and staff of Incarnate Word High School, culminated with visits from two accreditation agencies, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and the Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission (TCCAC), to review the schools self studies and make recommendation for re-accreditation of the schools program.

We are pleased to report that the school was recommended for re-accreditation by both agencies. The Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission commended the school on its community service efforts, efforts to keep the heritage of the Sisters of Charity integral to the school community, its overall communication and relations with members of the school community and its comprehensive guidance program among other commendations. Overall, **the school received a rating of "Outstanding or Exemplary" in 35 of the 50 descriptors with no area noted as needs improvement.**

The SACS CASI report also recommended IWHS for re-accreditation. The SACS report commended IWHS for the strong support system in place to ensure students have an academic focus, a spiritual connection and plan for the future; the positive attitude of IWHS students; the high expectations of all students and their active involvement in the learning process; the community service program and a unique daily schedule that provides for one-on-one differentiated instruction and the opportunity for students to become independent learners. Of the seven major standards for accreditation, **IWHS received the highest rating of "Highly Functional" in six, with the seventh rating being the second highest rating possible.**

For the faculty and staff, the affirmation of our work and that of our students was highly gratifying. Equally rewarding, was the commissions' affirmation that the school had identified those areas where improvement would further enhance our program. An updated five-year strategic plan for the school will be completed by the end of this academic year.

We are appreciative of the many commendations received through the re-accreditation process, but the success of our students, in high school, college and beyond is the true validation of our program and our reward for the love, dedication and time given by the faculty to the students of Incarnate Word High School.