

End of the Cycle: Looking to the Future

During Year Four of the Mission Integration cycle, the MIT continues to work toward the goals outlined in the plan. It also begins to assess its success in completing the plan and notes areas in which further growth is needed. Throughout the four-year process, the MIT collects evidence of its progress. This evidence is presented during the Team Visit.

As a member of the Visiting Team, you will carefully review this evidence. At the end of your visit, you will work with the Chair of your team in preparing a written Visit Report which will serve as a record of your findings. In that report, you will affirm the school's successes and suggest areas for attention during the next four-year cycle.

The Visit Report will be reviewed by the administrators and the MIT of the school and by the Office of Sponsorship. The Office of Sponsorship will write a commentary which will affirm the findings of the Visiting Team and, as necessary, address other issues that may have arisen during the four-year cycle. This commentary will be shared with the school administration and MIT. Once the school administration acknowledges, in writing, the report and commentary, it marks the end of the Mission Integration cycle.

Mission integration is not a project with a defined beginning and end, however. Work on the next cycle will have already begun. In reviewing the successes and shortcomings of the previous plan, the MIT will have begun determining a direction for the next one and the feedback provided by your Team Visit will have further clarified their strengths and needs.

The Team Visit plays an important role in the Mission integration Process in helping the school community reflect on past progress, recognize needs that remain to be met, and begin to focus directions for the future.

In serving on a Visiting Team, you perform a valuable service to your fellow Marianist educators and to Marianist Education. By helping to improve this important ministry, you are sharing directly in Mary's mission of bringing Jesus to life in the world.

Other brochures in this series include:

The Team Visit
Skills for the Visit
Visit Ethics and Attitudes
Team Leadership
The Visit Report

If you have questions regarding the content of this brochure, please feel free to contact::



George Lisjak
Phone: 937-229-3743
glisjak1@udayton.edu

Mission Integration
School Visiting Teams



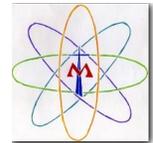
First in a series

Overview of the Process

Office of Sponsorship - Marianist Province of the United States

You have agreed to be part of a Mission Integration Visiting Team. We in the Office of Sponsorship of the Marianist Province of the U.S. appreciate your willingness to serve the ministry of education in our Marianist-sponsored schools in this important capacity.

This brochure is designed to provide some background about the role of Team Visits in the overall Mission Integration process. Other brochures in this series explain in greater detail your particular role on a Visiting Team, and what you might expect from your experience.



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The Process in Context

The idea of having teams of practitioners visit schools for purposes of accountability has a long history. Most school accrediting organizations include such a team visit periodically as part of the accreditation process. The schools of the Marianist Province of the U.S., formerly under the auspices of the Office of Education and now under those of the Office of Sponsorship, have been regularly visited by teams of Marianist educators since the formation of the province. The purpose of the visits has been the validation and affirmation of the efforts of the schools to embody the Characteristics of Marianist Education (CME).

Beginning with the 2009 – 2010 academic year, the Office of Education adapted the ways we interact with our sponsored schools to better address their current Mission Integration needs. This new Mission Integration process continues now under the the Office of Sponsorship.

The process includes a four-year cycle of activity. The cycle begins with the development of a four-year plan by the school's Mission Integration Team (MIT) during the first year, continues with teleconferences and an individual



visit by a member of the Office of Sponsorship, and culminates in a Team Visit in the fourth year.

You will be visiting a school that has been preparing for your visit for four years. The better you understand the intent of the overall process and the way it is implemented, the better able you will be to participate in helping the school to improve the quality of Marianist Education it delivers.

Long-Range Planning

The first year of the Mission Integration cycle begins with the MIT of the school developing a four-year plan. In contrast to the way planning had been done in the past, the MIT is expected to spend a significant amount of time assessing the needs of the school community. This assessment provides the foundation for a plan designed to move the school toward a fuller expression of Marianist Education. Rather than being limited to short range activities, the focus of the plan is on reaching significant extended goals, which may include a series of events or programs that extend beyond one year. Throughout the four-year cycle, a school should be improving its understanding and delivery of Marianist Education. By the end of the four-year cycle, the school should be able to cite significant progress in delivering Marianist Education.



When completed, the plan is submitted to the Office of Sponsorship for review. The Office of Sponsorship, the MIT Chair, and the chief administrators of the school then communicate via a conference call to discuss the plan.

It is important for the Office of Sponsorship to understand the plan and its rationale, both to be able to effectively support the school in reaching its goals and to fairly assess whether those goals have been attained.



Progress on the Plan

As the MIT works with the school community toward its goals, the Office of Sponsorship is in regular communication with the school to offer feedback and support. During Year Two of the Mission Integration cycle, a member of the Office of Sponsorship visits the school. This visit serves as a mid-point review of plan progress. The visitor meets with the MIT and administrators so that all parties share an understanding of what has been accomplished and what remains to be done.

During Year Three of the cycle, there is again a conference call between the Office of Sponsorship, the MIT Chair, and the chief administrators of the school to assess progress. These contacts will serve as formative evaluation, guiding the MIT toward successful completion of the plan.