

CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

The Self-study, for the years 1995 to 2004, has been a unique experience in a number of important ways. For the first time, the Campus undertook a combined effort to address the process of license renewal by the PRCHE simultaneously with MSCHE reaffirmation of accreditation. The Campus self examination took place in light of new accreditation standards that emphasize assessment of student learning and institutional effectiveness across all main academic and support functions. Broad participation was prioritized in a process that charged several interfaculty committees with the momentous task of distilling the more than 5,000 pages of self-study produced by the participating units into a final draft that served as basis for this report.

The institution's decision to perform a comprehensive self study with emphasis on program evaluation is in line with one of the main priorities already addressed in our Action Plan presented to the Campus community in 2002. That is, undergraduate and graduate program evaluation is a fundamental element for advancing the commitment to excellence in research and educational offerings so clearly stated in our Mission.

The Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico is the only higher education institution on the island to bear a doctoral research intensive classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Significant accomplishments during the past ten years evidence our steadfast dedication to enhancing this distinction. In line with the areas for improvement identified in this Self study, we have undertaken with renewed assurance our initial administrative commitment to strengthening the Campus research culture and improving academic excellence through evaluation and accreditation. We are determined to continue supporting both goals with agile and effective administrative processes and adequate physical facilities that will allow us to pave the way for future achievements.

Gladys Escalona de Motta, Ph.D.
Chancellor