

Results for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation for Junior College

Iwate Prefectural University Miyako College



Basic Information of the Institution	
Ownership: Public	Location: Iwate, Japan
Accreditation Status	
Year of the Review: 2015	
Accreditation Status: accredited (Accreditation Period: April.01.2016– March.31.2023)	

Certified Evaluation and Accreditation Results for Iwate Prefectural University Miyako College

Overview

Iwate Prefectural University Miyako Junior College (hereafter, the College) was founded in 1990 as Miyako Junior College in Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture, as a single-subject junior college consisting of the Department of Business Management Information Sciences. It was formed to respond to the strong demand for enriching the environment of higher education in the coastal area of Iwate Prefecture. Later, in 1998, it became the affiliate of Iwate Prefectural University, and changed its name to Iwate Prefectural University Miyako Junior College. In 2005, due to the reorganization of Iwate Prefectural University as a university corporation, it became a junior college division of the university.

After its accreditation review by Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) in 2008, the College has made notable efforts for improvements and reform. It established a system for improvement led by the Self-Evaluation Committee, consisting of the members of the Operating Committee of Miyako Junior College under the supervision of the University Evaluation Committee of Iwate Prefectural University. The goal of the committee was to achieve six key points, including strategically securing applicants who have clear goals and high learning motivation, based on the second midterm plan stipulated by Iwate Prefectural University. Also, in accordance with the university-wide effort of Iwate Prefectural University, by organically coordinating the university evaluation with the corporate evaluation based on the Local Independent Administrative Agency Act, it has set up the Self-Evaluation Management System, and developed objective indicators to improve operational efficiency.

In this accreditation review, it is found that a notable strength of the College is its fine-tuned support of students, including the establishment of an educational system in which the College grasps the particular situation of each student, responds to individual career needs and interests, and instructs the student accordingly, as well as the building of a dormitory where students manage by themselves. Also, the College is actively engaged in local cooperation and makes local contributions according to the purpose of the College. For example, the College promotes joint research with outside organizations, forming of policies through a comprehensive cooperation agreement with the local government, and engages in activities concerning rebuilding after a disaster.

With the adoption of the project funded by MEXT, the scheme of system development for educational improvements and enhancement in response to the needs of industries, the College has made distinctive efforts, including enhancement of career education, offering a regional integrated studies course concerning regional development and rebuilding after a disaster, enhancement of a junior college internship program, and implementation of study tours and workshops of businesses, in cooperation with other institutions in the same university corporation and fourteen other higher education institutions in the Hokkaido and Tohoku regions. Activities such as career education in cooperation with local businesses and study tours and workshops in businesses cultivate students' experiences of job sites, give them motivation for employment, and increases their business understanding and interests. This leads to an increase in the number of participants in internships and a resultant increase in the number of students being employed by local businesses. These efforts are expected to continue even after the completion of this system development scheme, and to be improved in their content and their implementation.

Notable Strengths

Student Support

- It is commendable that the College cultivates students' spirit of cooperation and their sense of autonomy through community living in the dormitory, and offers enhanced living support so that students may continue their study without distraction. In particular, the students' self-managed dormitory, where the residents decide the budget at a general meeting attended by all student residents, is established on campus and serves as housing support for students living away from home or those whose homes were lost in the tsunami.

Social Cooperation and Contribution

- It is commendable that the College's efforts to foster local cooperation and make local contributions not only match the purpose of the College, but they also contribute to problem solving in and revitalization of the local community. In particular, the College is actively engaged in promoting joint research with outside organizations and the formation of policies, supporting projects, and taking part in activities concerning the rebuilding after a disaster through a comprehensive cooperation agreement with the local government.
- It is commendable that the Japan Red Cross Circle, a group launched by students, has developed into the Miyako College Red Cross Service Volunteers, one of the largest groups of this kind in the Tohoku region and made contributions to the revitalization of the local community. In particular after the Great East Japan Earthquake, it initially engaged in support activities for victims, but also supported activities to rebuild the local community, such as preventing isolation of elderly individuals and working with residents to rebuild their lives.