

# ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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July 3, 2014

Dr. Sandra Mayo President Moreno Valley College 16130 Lassell Street Moreno Valley, CA 92551

# Dear President Mayo:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 4-6, 2014 reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report and the Report of the External Evaluation Team that visited Moreno Valley College March 3-6, 2014.

The Commission took action to **reaffirm accreditation** with the requirement that the College submit a **Follow-Up Report** by **October 15**, **2015**. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.<sup>1</sup>

Reaffirmation with a Follow-Up Report is granted when an institution is found to substantially meet or exceed the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies, but has recommendations on a small number of issues which should be resolved in a short period of time. The Report should demonstrate that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Accreditation Standards.

### **Need to Resolve Deficiencies:**

The Accreditation Standards, as an integrated whole, represent indicators of academic quality and institutional effectiveness. Deficiencies in any Standards will impact quality at an institution, and ultimately the educational environment and experiences of students. The Commission found Moreno Valley College deficient in meeting the following Accreditation Standards: I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.6, I.B.7, II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, III.A.2, III.A.6, III.B.2.a, III.B.2.b, III.C.2, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.c, III.D.3.c, and III.D.4 from the following College and District recommendations written to meet Standards.

# Recommendation 1

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College further articulate its goals and objectives in measurable terms, and assess progress toward achieving its goals systematically and on a regular cycle. (Standards I.B.2, I.B.3)

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### Recommendation 2

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College assess its planning and program review processes to ensure an ongoing and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, resource allocation, implementation, and re-evaluation. (Standards I.B.6, I.B.7. III.A.6, III.B.2.b, III.C.2, III.D.4)

# **Recommendation 3**

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College regularly assess learning outcomes for all courses and programs and include analysis of learning outcomes results in institutional planning processes. (Standard II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f)

### **Recommendation 4**

In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that course outlines of record for CTE courses be made current and a process be developed to ensure a continuous cycle of review for relevance, appropriateness, and currency. (Standard II.A.2.e)

### Recommendation 5

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College develop long-term financial plans that take into account enrollment management plans, capital replacement schedules, human resources staffing plans, and existing facilities and technology master plans, and consider these when making short-term financial and programmatic decisions. (III.A.2, III.B.2.a, III.C.2, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.c)

# **District Recommendation 1**

In order to meet Standards, compile the various completed elements of technology planning into an integrated, comprehensive district technology plan that is accessible and transparent, including a disaster recovery plan and a plan to refresh aging and outdated technologies. Insure that the district technology plan is based on input from the colleges and is in alignment with college planning processes. (Standards I.B.6 and III.C.2)

### **District Recommendation 2**

In order to meet the Standard, implement a plan to fund contributions to the District's other postemployment benefits (OPEB) obligation. (Standard III.D.3.c)

Under U.S. Department of Education enforcement regulations, the Commission is required to take immediate action to terminate the accreditation of an institution which is out of compliance with any standard. In the alternative, the Commission can provide the institution with additional notice and a deadline for coming into compliance that is no later than two years from when the institution was first informed of the noncompliance.

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In exceptional situations, if the institution has done all within its authority to reach compliance on any standard but remains out of compliance, the Commission is permitted by regulations to allocate a one-time, short-term "good cause extension" for the college to reach compliance prior to acting on the institution's termination. However, continued noncompliance with multiple standards would diminish the appropriateness of such an extension.

The Commission notes that the deficiencies cited in College Recommendations 1-5 and District Recommendations 1-2 were first identified in June 2014. Moreno Valley College should fully resolve the noted deficiencies by **October 2015**.

# Improvement of Institutional Effectiveness:

A Recommendation has also been made for Moreno Valley College to improve institutional effectiveness. Recommendations for improvement may be made to highlight areas for continuing or expanding excellent practices. Recommendations for improvement may also be made when an institution is currently in compliance with Standards, but additional levels of effort should be demonstrated in the future. In the Commission's experience, these recommendations may provide indicators of possible future noncompliance if left unattended by the institution. The College should plan to fully address all improvement recommendations in the Midterm Report.

# Recommendation 6

In order to increase effectiveness, the team recommends that the College analyze available data for all programs and integrate this analysis into their program review and systematic planning cycle to ensure that all students receive equitable services. (Standards II.B.1, II.B.3, II.B.4)

During its institutional self evaluation, Moreno Valley College identified improvement plans for advancing its continuous improvement efforts. The Commission suggests that those plans for improvement be taken into account as the College continues into the next accreditation cycle. In its Midterm report, the College should address steps undertaken in those improvement areas.

The final External Evaluation Report enclosed with this letter provides details of the team's findings with regard to each Eligibility Requirement and Accreditation Standard and should be read carefully and used to understand the team's findings. Additional copies may be duplicated.

The recommendations contained in the External Evaluation Report represent the best advice of the peer evaluation team at the time of the visit, but may not describe all that is necessary to come into compliance. Institutions are expected to take all actions necessary to continuously comply with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies. The Commission wishes to remind you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the Report, Moreno Valley College is expected to use the External Evaluation Report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

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The Commission requires that the College give the Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External Evaluation Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to College staff and to those who were signatories of the College Self Evaluation Report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the College's Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External Evaluation Report, and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness, educational quality, and student success.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.

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President

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. It contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<a href="http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc">http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc</a>).