



**ACCREDITING
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for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2008

Dr. Geraldine Perri
President
Cuyamaca College
900 Rancho San Diego Parkway
El Cajon, CA 92019

Dear President Perri:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 9-11, 2008, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Cuyamaca College on Monday, October 22-Thursday, October 25, 2007. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation, with a requirement that the college complete a Progress Report due **October 15, 2009** and also complete a Focused Midterm Report.

I also wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. Cuyamaca College must correct the deficiencies noted by **January 2010**.

The Commission asks that the Progress Report be submitted by **October 15, 2009**. The Progress Report should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendation as noted below:

Recommendation 6: District Leadership and Governance

The team recommends that the district, using appropriate consultation, develop and implement policies and procedures that lead to effective leadership and governance throughout the district. Specifically, the Board of Trustees must

- establish and implement a formal process for consistent and regular self-evaluation for inclusion in its policies and by-laws (Standard IV.B.1.g).
- establish and implement formal policies and procedures for the selection of and regular evaluation of the college president (Standard IV.B.1.j).

Dr. Geraldine Perri
Cuyamaca College
January 31, 2008
Page Two

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Cuyamaca College should submit the Focused Midterm Report by **October 15, 2010**. Midterm Reports indicate resolution of any team recommendations made for improvement and require special emphasis be placed on those recommendations identified by the Commission. The Midterm Report also includes a summary of progress on college-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the self study report and forecasts where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

The Focused Midterm Report should address all the team's recommendations with special emphasis on the resolution of the recommendations as noted below:

Recommendation 1: Student Learning Outcomes The team recommends that the college complete the process of identifying Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for courses, programs, certificates, and degrees, identify SLOs for student services, and other areas of the college, and develop and implement methods for assessing student achievement of those outcomes. The assessment results should be used to guide improvement (Standards I.B.1, I.B.7, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.f, II.A.3.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.c, II.B.4, II.C.2, III.A.1.c).

Recommendation 5: Dialogue The team recommends that the college, the chancellor, and district develop and implement strategies for the improvement of dialogue among the various entities in the district, leading to improved relationships and collaboration among and between the colleges and the district (Standard IV.A.1, IV.A. 2, IV.A.3. IV.B.2).

2001 Team Recommendation 4: The college and district ensure that formal evaluation of part-time faculty be completed in a timely manner, with consideration for maintaining appropriate protections for faculty and students as embedded in current practices, and to find effective ways to facilitate participation in appropriate staff development activities for more classified staff and part-time faculty. (2002 Standards III.A.1.a, b, c, III.A.2, III.A.5.a, b)

With regard to this recommendation, the 2007 team noted that the college still needs to address the feedback process and demonstrate that feedback is timely and formal.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the team report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the self study report be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

Dr. Geraldine Perri
Cuyamaca College
January 31, 2008
Page Three

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, the college is expected to use the report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of Cuyamaca College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during **Fall 2013**.

I'd also like to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards One and Two). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

Finally, the Commission wishes to note that the evaluation visit was conducted during a period in which the College was forced to evacuate its campus due to fire. The College, its trustees, employees and students, are to be commended for adapting to working with the evaluation team at its hotel and proceeding with the evaluation visit. Thanks to the cooperation of the college, the team believes it was able to complete its evaluation visit in a fair and effective manner.

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 integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Omero Suarez, Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD
Dr. Cristina Chiriboga, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD
Dr. Barbara Hioco, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members