

January 27, 2020

Dr. Juliana Barnes, President  
Cuyamaca College  
900 Rancho San Diego Parkway  
El Cajon, CA 92019

Dear Dr. Barnes:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 15-17, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Cuyamaca College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College September 30 - October 3, 2019.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and Require a Follow-Up Report**, due no later than March 1, 2021.

#### Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Cuyamaca College in the following area. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

**Commendation 1:** The Commission commends the College for its sustained, substantive, and collegial dialogue about student outcomes, student equity, academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement of student learning and achievement. The College's commitment to equity and the effective use of data permeates throughout the institution and has led to numerous examples of continuous innovation, dialogue, and improvement (I.B.1).

#### Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standard, as identified in the District requirement. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

**Standard III.A.5 (District Requirement 1):** In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the District ensures that all classified and management employees are systematically evaluated at stated intervals.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness. This recommendation does not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Cuyamaca College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. Lynn Neault, Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District  
Ms. Brianna Hays, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Attachment