



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
FAX: (415) 506-0238
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org
www.accjc.org

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June 30, 2011

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta College
One Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

Dear President Rodriguez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 8-10, 2011, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by MiraCosta College and the Follow-up report of the evaluation team which visited Monday, March 28, 2011. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution, that deficiencies had been resolved, and that the College now meets the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

The Commission acted to place MiraCosta College on **Probation** effective immediately and require the College to submit a Follow-Up Report by **March 15, 2012** as noted in the June 2010 Commission action letter. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

Probation is imposed when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period. Probation is being continued for deficiencies identified in the team report and associated with Recommendation 1.

This action constitutes a public sanction as described in the Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions in the Commission's *Accreditation Reference Handbook*. Federal regulations require that the Commission post on its website a brief summary of the reason for sanctions for institutions placed on Probation or Show Cause.

The Follow-Up Report of March 15, 2012, should demonstrate that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Accreditation Standards.

Recommendation 2: In order to meet the standard and achieve the proficiency level by 2012, the Team recommends that the College develop comprehensive reports to clearly demonstrate the ongoing, systematic review of student learning outcomes (I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, II.C.2).

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With regard to Recommendation 2, the Commission expects that institutions meet Standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission therefore requests that the College include in its 2012 report information that demonstrates the College has met these Standards. (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, II.C.2 and III.A.1.c)

Recommendation 3: In order to meet the standard, the Team recommends that the college formalize in writing participation in student learning outcomes and assessment as a stated component of the evaluation process for faculty and others directly responsible for student progress for achieving stated student learning outcomes (III.A.1.c).

Recommendation 4: In order to meet the standard, the Team recommends that the college develop a process to evaluate the integrity and effectiveness of its new governance structure and use the evaluation results as the basis for improvement (IV.A.2.5).

In addition, as the College in its Spring 2011 Follow-Up Report failed to provide sufficient evidence that it has resolved the deficiencies noted in Recommendation 1, the Commission requires that Mira Costa College demonstrate that these deficiencies be fully resolved:

Recommendation 1: In order to meet the Standards, the Team recommends that the college (I.A.4, I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.4, I.B.5, I.B.6, I.B.7, III.A.6, III.B.2.a, III.B.2.b, III.C.1.c, III.C.2, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.b, III.D.1.c, III.D.1.d, III.D.3, ER 19):

- Implement, align, and integrate various college plans into a fully integrated institutional plan that advances a defined mission statement.
- Develop specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives in relation to clearly stated institution-wide goals that are understood college-wide and represent the foundation of the integrated institutional plan.
- Conduct consistent, systematic and timely evaluations of the integrated institutional plan and its related components based on analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data and ensure the results are communicated and understood by college constituents. Further, in order to promote and sustain a culture of evidence and improve institutional effectiveness, the college should implement an ongoing method of measuring and evaluating its effectiveness in achieving stated institutional performance objectives and student learning outcomes.
- Complete the Education Master Plan and begin implementation. In addition, the college must demonstrate that decisions regarding priorities result from stated institutional goals and are linked to an integrated institutional plan and its related planning components.

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In addition to the submission of a Follow-Up Report by March, 15, 2012, the Commission requires the College to submit a copy of its approved Education Master Plan by **December 1, 2011**.

I 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. MiraCosta College must correct the deficiencies noted by **March 15, 2012**, or the Commission will be compelled to act.

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing a copy on the College website can accomplish this. Should you need an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff. The Follow-Up Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation.

Finally, ACCJC staff is available to assist the College with consultation and advice on the recommendations identified above.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Pam Deegan, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, MiraCosta CCD
Dr. Andreea Serban, Team Chair
Ms. Martina Fernandez-Rosario, U.S.D.E.