



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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July 3, 2014

Dr. Kathleen Hart
Superintendent/President
San Joaquin Delta College
5151 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95207

Dear President Hart:

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, the Report of the External Evaluation Team that visited San Joaquin Delta College March 10-13, 2014 and the additional documentation submitted by the College.

The Commission took action to **reaffirm accreditation** and require the institution to submit a **Follow-Up Report** by **March 15, 2015**.¹ The Report should demonstrate that the College has addressed Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 noted below.

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 of some urgency which should be addressed in a short period of time. The Report should demonstrate that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and 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 San Joaquin Delta College deficient in meeting the following Accreditation Standards: II.A.2, III.A.1.b-c, III.A.2, III.A.3.a, and III.A.5.a.

Recommendation 1:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District implement an ongoing, systematic, sustainable program review for each program not currently in the program review process that informs integrated planning, resource allocation decisions, key processes to improve institutional effectiveness, and student achievement and learning. (II.A.2, II.A.2.e)

Recommendation 4:

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the District ensure that evaluation processes and necessary criteria are in place and evaluations are regularly and consistently conducted for all employee groups. (Standards III.A.1.b-c, III.A.2, III.A.3.a, III.A.5.a)

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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.

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. San Joaquin Delta College should fully resolve the noted deficiencies by **March 2015**.

Improvement of Institutional Effectiveness:

Recommendations have also been made for San Joaquin Delta 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 these improvement recommendations in the Follow-Up Report of **March 2015**.

Recommendation 2:

In order to increase effectiveness, the team recommends that the District establish a sound infrastructure of sufficient administrative personnel to ensure a consistent level of services that support the institution’s mission and purpose. The team further recommends that the district expedite the process to fill vacant and interim administrative positions. (Standards II.A.2, III.A.6, IV.B.)

Recommendation 3:

In order to increase effectiveness and to achieve consistency within educational modalities, the team recommends that the District integrate its distance education planning with institutional planning, update its policy that defines “regular and substantive interaction,” and develop and implement a faculty evaluation rubric that is relevant for faculty who teach online courses. (Standards II.B.1, II.A.1.b)

During its institutional self evaluation, San Joaquin Delta 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.

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As the Commission reviewed the External Evaluation Report and considered the additional documentation presented by the College, the Commission made changes to the External Evaluation Report with the concurrence of the team chair. The **final** External Evaluation Report is attached. It 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 now 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, San Joaquin Delta College is expected to use the External Evaluation Report to improve educational programs and services.

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 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 farther 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 integrity, institutional effectiveness, educational quality, and student success.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

¹Institutions 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: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).