



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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July 3, 2014

Mr. Arturo Reyes
Superintendent/President
Mendocino College
1000 Hensley Creek Road
Mendocino, CA 95482

Dear President Reyes:

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 Mendocino College March 10-13, 2014, and the supplemental information provided by the College.

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

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 Mendocino College deficient in meeting the following Accreditation Standards: I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.5, I.B.6, I.B.7, II.A.6.c, III.A.1.c, III.C.2, III.D.3.h, IV.A.5, and IV.B.1.e.

Recommendation 1. Review and Evaluation Mechanisms

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College systematically review and modify as necessary all parts of the planning and resource allocation cycle, including institutional and other research efforts.

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The team further recommends that the College create evaluation mechanisms for all parts of the cycle of integrated planning and resource allocation, assess these evaluation mechanisms, and through systematic review of their effectiveness, improve instructional programs, student support services, library, and other support services. (I.B.6, I.B.7, III.C.2, III.D.3.h)

Recommendation 2. Review of Board Policies and Administrative Procedures

In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College establish a cycle to systematically review and update board policies and administrative procedures. (II.A.6.c, IV.B.1.e)

Recommendation 3. SLOs in Faculty Evaluations

In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that the College establish effectiveness in producing student learning outcomes as an evaluation component for all faculty and for all others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving those learning outcomes. (III.A.1.c)

Recommendation 4. Evaluation of Participatory Governance Structures

In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that the College systematically evaluate its participatory governance and decision-making structures and processes to assure their integrity and effectiveness and to use them as the basis for improvement. (IV.A.5)

Commission Recommendation 1:

In order to meet Standards, the Commission requires that the college establish institution-set standards for student achievement to improve effectiveness and establish processes to measure performance in accomplishing these standards. (I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.5)

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. Mendocino College should fully resolve the noted deficiencies by **March 2015**.

During its institutional self evaluation, Mendocino 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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The External Evaluation Report 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. The recommendations contained in the External Evaluation Report represent the best advice of the peer evaluation team at the time of the visit.

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, Mendocino College is expected to use the External Evaluation Report to improve educational programs and services.

As the Commission reviewed the External Evaluation Report and considered the additional material submitted by the College, the Commission made changes to the External Evaluation Report. A **final** copy of the External Evaluation Report is attached. Additional copies may now be duplicated.

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 institutional integrity, 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>).