



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2010

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 9-11, 2010, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited MiraCosta College Monday, March 1-Thursday, March 4, 2010. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation, with a requirement that the College complete two Follow-Up Reports. Both reports will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission requires that the first Follow-Up Report be submitted by **March 15, 2011**. The Follow-Up Report should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendation as noted below:

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.

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez
MiraCosta College
June 30, 2010
Page Two

- 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.

With regard to Recommendation 1 above, the Commission notes the need for MiraCosta College to place significant emphasis on college wide, integrated planning that is data-driven and which informs institutional decision making.

The second Follow-Up Report should be submitted by **March 15, 2012** and should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations as noted below:

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).

Commission Concern: 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, and II.C.2)

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).

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 **June 2012** or the Commission will be compelled to act.

All colleges are required to submit a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. MiraCosta College should submit the Midterm Report by **March 15, 2013**.

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez
MiraCosta College
June 30, 2010
Page Three

The Midterm Report describes resolution of any team recommendations made for improvement, 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 College conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission requires that the plans for improvement of the institution included in its self study efforts be used to support the continuing improvement of MiraCosta College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the College will occur during Spring 2016.

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 Evaluation Team Report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

A final copy of the Evaluation Team Report is attached. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the Evaluation Team Report and this letter dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your institutional Self Study Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the Evaluation 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 an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

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. Pam Deegan, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, MiraCosta Community College District
Dr. Andreea Serban, Team Chair

Enclosure