



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and 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

Chairperson
SHERRILL L. AMADOR
Public Member

Vice Chairperson
STEVEN KINSELLA
Administration

President
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President
SUSAN B. CLIFFORD

Vice President
KRISTA JOHNS

Vice President
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President
JOHN NIXON

Associate Vice President
NORVAL WELLSFRY

February 7, 2014

Mr. Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent/President
College of the Sequoias
915 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear President Carrizosa:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 8-10, 2014 reviewed the Show Cause Report submitted by College of the Sequoias, the statement by college representatives, and the report of the evaluation team which visited November 13 and 14, 2014. The purpose of this review was to determine whether College of the Sequoias meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards at a level sufficient to remain accredited, and whether College of the Sequoias has made changes and improvements required by the Commission action letter of February 11, 2013, which placed the College on Show Cause. The Commission also reviewed the College of the Sequoias' Closure Report.

The Commission found that College of the Sequoias has resolved many of the deficiencies that were identified in the February 11, 2013 action letter but has important areas of non-compliance not yet resolved. The Commission acted to **remove Show Cause, issue Warning**, and require the College to submit a **Follow-Up Report by October 15, 2014**.¹ The Report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course deviating from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards or Commission policies to an extent that gives concern to the Commission. College of the Sequoias has done significant and commendable work to reform the institution and to comply with most Accreditation Standards, but there remain a number of items that must be completed before the institution fully complies. The College must resolve its remaining deficiencies by October, 2014.

Need to Correct Deficiencies

The Commission has found that the College of the Sequoias is still deficient in meeting the following Accreditation Standards: I.B.3, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.d, III.D.4, and IV.B.2.b.

Mr. Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent/President
College of the Sequoias
February 7, 2014

Note: The 2013 Show Cause Evaluation Team has written a new recommendation to replace and clarify 2012 Recommendation 1, and it is labeled 2013 Recommendation 1.

2013 Recommendation 1 – Planning

In order to fully meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College follow its new Model for Integrated Planning to demonstrate the integration of institutional planning, resource allocation, implementation and re-evaluation. These processes should include appropriate participation from constituent groups and should be evaluated based upon analyses of both quantitative and qualitative data. (Standards I.B.3, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.d, III.D.4, IV.B.2.b)

In addition, the Commission requires College of the Sequoias demonstrate that it has addressed the recommendations below from 2012, resolved the remaining deficiencies, sustained the changes and improvements, and meets the remaining Accreditation Standards noted in the recommendations.

2012 Recommendation 3 – Research Capacity

In order to fully comply with the standards, the team recommends that the College increase the research capacity of the institution in order to compile and provide data to guide institutional planning and resource allocation, program review and assessment, and decision-making for institutional effectiveness. (Standards I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.6, II.A.1.a, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, III.A, IV.B.2.b)

2012 Recommendation 7 – Evaluation of Processes

In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College develop and implement a systematic evaluation of its decision-making and budget development processes and use the results of those evaluations as a basis for improvement. (Standards III.D.1.a, III.D.1.d, III.D.2.d, III.D.3, IV.A.2, IV.A.5, IV.B.1.g, IV.B.2)

Please note that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, when an institution is out of compliance with any Standards, the Commission “must immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency’s standards within a time period that must not exceed...two years.” College of the Sequoias must fully resolve the noted deficiencies by October 2014.

The Show Cause Team Report that was sent to the institution 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 Show Cause Team 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 action necessary to 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, College of the Sequoias is expected to use the Show Cause Team Report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

Mr. Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent/President

College of the Sequoias
February 7, 2014

I have previously sent you a copy of the Show Cause Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that the College give the institutional Show Cause Report, the Show Cause Team 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 campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the College's Show Cause Report, the Show Cause Team 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.* If you would like an electronic copy of the Show Cause Team 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 educational quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/mg

¹ Institutions 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>).