

## ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

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Administrative Assistant CLARE GOLDBERG January 31, 2008

Dr. William Scroggins Superintendent/President College of the Sequoias 915 South Mooney Boulevard Visalia, CA 93277

Dear President Scroggins:



The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 9-11, 2008, reviewed the Progress Report submitted by the college and the report of the evaluation team which visited on Thursday, November 29, 2007. The Commission took action to accept the report, **remove Warning and reaffirm accreditation.** The Commission also acted to require that the college complete a Progress Report.

I also 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.

The Commission asks that a Progress Report be submitted by **October 15**, **2008**. The Progress Report should demonstrate the institution's continued implementation and improvement of institutional practices that resolve the following recommendations.

**Recommendation 2:** The team recommends that the college engage all campus constituent groups in an institutional decision-making and planning process, which is linked and central to the college mission. The process should be an ongoing, effective, and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, resource allocation, research, and re-evaluation. This cycle should include such processes as curricular development, program review, and assessment and allocation of technological, physical, financial, and human resources.(Standard IA.4, IB.3, IB.4, IB.6, IB.7: Standard IIA.1; IIA.2, IIB3, IIB4, IIC2; Standard IIIA6, IIIB2, IIIC2, IIID1, IIID.2g, IIID3)

With regard to this recommendation, the college has reached the stage where it is appropriate to now review the planning and improvement process and refine it as necessary.

**Recommendation 3:** The team recommends that the college develop, review, and measure student learning outcomes in all of its courses, programs, degrees/certificates, the general education pattern, and institution-wide practices. (Standard IB.1, Standard IIA.1c, IIA.2a, IIA.2b, IIA.2e, IIA.2f, IIA.2g, IIA.2h, IIA.2i, IIA.3, IIA.6a, IIB.1, IIB.4, IIC.1a, IIC.2; Standard IIIA.1b, IIIA.1c; and Standard IVA.1, IVA.2b, IVB.1b)

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**Recommendation 5:** The team recommends that the College focus on the needs of its diverse populations both on campus and in the community, including new students, non-traditional populations, and persons of limited English ability. The College must pay particular attention in all of its learning environments to the needs of persons with disabilities, including access to facilities, services, instructional materials, and print and electronic media. The College should ensure that its public representations are universally accessible. (Standard IA.1, Standard A.1a, IIA.1b, IIA.2d, IIA.6c, IIB.3a, IIB.3b, Standard IIIA.4a, IIIA.4b)

**Recommendation 6:** The team recommends that the College develop a process by which all policies are regularly reviewed and updated to meet Accreditation Standards, including, but not limited to:

- Tenure Review
- Hiring & Evaluation processes (management, classified, and faculty)
- Employee Professional Ethics
- Board policy concerning Ethics Policy violation

With regard to Recommendation 6, the Commission requests the college to specify the status of the policies listed, indicating whether they have been reviewed and updated.

You have been previously notified that College of the Sequoias is required to file a Midterm Report by **October 15, 2009**. Midterm Reports indicate resolution of any team recommendations made for improvement (**Recommendation 1**), include a summary of progress on college-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the Self Study Report and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. A revised copy of the team **report is attached.** 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 copies in the college library can accomplish this. The Progress Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation.

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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,

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Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D. President

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 cc: Dr. Ron Johnson, Accreditation Liaison Officer Board President, College of the Sequoias Dr. David Pelham, Team Chair Evaluation Team Members Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S. DOE