



**ACCREDITING  
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for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 29, 2007

Mr. Mark Perry  
President  
San Joaquin Valley College  
3828 W. Caldwell  
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear President Perry:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 6-8, 2007, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited San Joaquin Valley College on Tuesday, March 13-Thursday, March 15, 2007. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation, with a requirement that the college complete two Progress Reports. Both reports will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission asks that the first Progress Report be submitted by **October 15, 2007**. The Progress Report should focus on the institution's resolution of the recommendation and concern as noted below:

**Major Recommendation 4:** The College needs to evaluate its decision to eliminate its developmental course program and substitute an advisory-only tutorial program by developing and implementing an assessment of the impact of this change on student performance. (II.A.1.a, II.A.1.b, II.A.2.d, II.B, II.B.1, II.B.3, II.B.3.e, II.B.4.)

**Commission Concern:** The Commission requests that the College demonstrate it meets Eligibility Requirement 11 on General Education which requires the institution "...defines and incorporates into all of its degree programs a substantial component of general education designed to ensure breadth of knowledge and promote intellectual inquiry. The general education component includes demonstrated competence in writing and computational skills and an introduction to some of the major areas of knowledge. General education has comprehensive learning outcomes for the students who complete it. Degree credit for general education programs must be consistent with levels of quality and rigor appropriate to higher education. See the Accreditation Standards, II.A.3, for areas of study for general education."

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The Commission asks that the second Progress Report be submitted by **March 15, 2008**. The Progress Report should focus on the institution's resolution of the recommendations as noted below:

**Recommendation 1.** The College shall establish a written policy defining a cyclical pattern for developing the mission statement that is more inclusive for all constituencies and focuses on the perceived mission as articulated by the campus centers. (Standard I.A.1, I.A.3)

**Recommendation 2.** The College needs to expand the Master Plan process to clarify how the institution's mission is central to institutional planning, decision making, and budget allocation. (Standard I.A.4, I.B.3, I.B.4, II.A.2.f.)

**Recommendation 3.** The College needs to move implementation of student learning outcomes to the next level. The College needs to clearly identify student learning outcomes for its courses, programs and degrees, develop appropriate and authentic assessments of learning and use the results of assessment to plan and improve educational quality. There is little evidence of program or institutional-level SLO's. Progress needs to continue in the development of course-level SLO's and student services SLO's that are fully integrated into institutional planning. (II.A, II.A.1.a., II.A.1.c, II.A.2.b, II.A.e, II.A.2.f., II.A.2.h., II.A.2.i)

**Recommendation 6.** The administration and the Board of Governors need to complete its revision of the Handbook and Board Bylaws to incorporate a policy for handling violations of the Board of Governors Code of Ethics and to further clarify evaluation procedures for the Board of Governors members. (II.V.B.1.g.; IV.B.1.h.)

**Recommendation 7.** The owners and the Board of Governors need to revise the Board Policy to include objective, third party persons with some fiscal expertise who are assigned the responsibility for receipt and review of the annual audit to meet compliance with this Governing Board standard. (E.R. 3, E.R. 4. IV.B.1., IV.B.1.c, IV.B.1.j)

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the team report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study report. This group should include the campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the 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 the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

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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, it is expected that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution. All team recommendations are expected to be **fully** addressed by the time of the institution's next comprehensive evaluation visit; some have been singled out for earlier resolution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. San Joaquin Valley College should submit the Midterm Report by **March 15, 2010**. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The report also includes a summary of progress on college-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the self study.

The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of San Joaquin Valley College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during Spring 2013.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards One and Two). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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: Ms. Tracy Ekizian, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, San Joaquin Valley College  
Dr. Donald Averill, Team Chair  
Evaluation Team Members

Enclosure