



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 11, 2013

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SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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**SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

Dr. Jowel Laguerre
President
Solano Community College
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534

Dear President Laguerre:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2013, considered the Follow-Up Report submitted by the College and the report of the evaluation team that visited the College on November 13, 2012. The Commission took action to **continue Warning** and require the College to complete a **Follow-Up Report¹** by **October 15, 2013**. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The Follow-Up Report should demonstrate that the institution has fully addressed all of the recommendations noted below, fully resolved the deficiencies, and meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

Recommendation 5:

In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College expand its data collection, analysis and planning related to meeting the needs and fostering the success of an increasingly diverse student population. Student and staff equity and diversity plans should be fully integrated with the College's planning processes and should include strategies geared toward attracting a diverse pool of qualified applicants able to contribute to the success of the College's student population. (Standard II.A.1.a, II.A.2.d, II.B.3.d, III.A.4.a-c)

Recommendation 6:

In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College develop mechanisms and learning support systems to ensure that students enrolled in distance education courses are achieving stated learning outcomes at a level comparable with students enrolled in onsite programs and courses. (Standard II.A.1.b-c)

Recommendation 7:

In order to meet the standards and increase institutional effectiveness, the team recommends that the College develop and implement appropriate policies and procedures that incorporate effectiveness in producing student

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learning outcomes into the evaluation process of faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving student learning outcomes. (Standards, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, III.A.1.c)

Recommendation 9:

In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the College develop a clear, written code of ethics for all its personnel. (Standard III.A.1.d)

The Commission has determined that Solano Community College is near having fully addressed the recommendations noted above, resolving the associated deficiencies, and meeting Accreditation Standards. The College is using its enhanced data collection on student demographics to be more attentive to the needs of its diverse student population and improve employee recruitment. Similarly, the College needs to assess the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at enhancing the online experience for students. The College needs to continue to make explicit the connection between the requirement that faculty develop and assess student learning outcomes and the Standards' requirement that this be part of the evaluation process. Finally, the College has reported that the code of ethics is expected to be approved by the Board of Trustees this spring.

The Commission took note of the considerable work Solano Community College has accomplished to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 since the comprehensive visit in fall 2011. The College has completed the process of review and revision of the mission statement and revised its planning process following assessment of its effectiveness. The College has accelerated its efforts in the assessment of student learning outcomes at the course, program, and institutional levels and acquired key personnel and enhanced data reporting tools to develop a culture of evidence-based decision-making. Finally, the College has improved its library services, improved tutoring at the Vacaville and Vallejo Centers, and enhanced services for online students.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with Standards are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take adverse action. Solano Community College must complete the work needed by **October 15, 2013** or the Commission will be compelled to act.

The Follow-Up Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. I have previously sent you a copy of the Follow-Up Visit Report. 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 the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

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The Commission also requires that the Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Visit 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 Follow-Up Visit Report, please contact Commission staff.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D
President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Arturo Reyes, Accreditation Liaison Officer
President, Board of Trustees, Solano Community College District
James W. Hottois, Retired President, Palo Verde College, Team Chair

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>).