



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR 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
LURELEAN B. GAINES
East Los Angeles College

Vice Chairperson
FLOYD K. TAKEUCHI
Public Member

President
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President
SUSAN B. CLIFFORD

Vice President
STEVE MARADIAN

Vice President
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President
LILY OWYANG

Business Officer
DEANNE WILBURN

ITAS
TOM LANE

February 3, 2009

Dr. James Hottois
Superintendent/President
Palo Verde College
One College Drive
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear President Hottois:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 7-9, 2009, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Palo Verde College and the report of the evaluation team which visited on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution. The Commission took action to accept the report, **continue the college on Warning status**, and require that Palo Verde College complete a Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2009**. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Follow-Up Report of **October 15, 2009** should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations below:

Recommendation 1: The Team recommends that the College engage in systematic educational program planning guided by strategic dialogue and data. This planning should include the following:

- Planning course offerings so students can complete a program in a timely manner (II.A.2)
- Educational program planning based on data about community and student needs (II.A.2)
- Clearly disseminating information about procedures to approve and evaluate courses and programs (II.A.2.a, II.A.2.e)

Commission Recommendation 4: The College should demonstrate that its Program Review processes are fully integrated with the budget and planning processes and at the proficiency level as described in the Commission's Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness Parts I and II (I.B.3, I.B.4, I.B.6, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, III.A.6, III.B.2.a-b, III.C.2, III.D.3)

The Commission also reminds the college it is expected that Commission Recommendation 2, noted below, be addressed by the 2012 Commission deadline for meeting all standards relating to student learning outcomes.

Dr. James Hottois
Palo Verde College
February 3, 2009
Page Two

Commission Recommendation 2: The College should provide evidence that faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated student learning outcomes have, as a component of their evaluation, effectiveness in producing those learning outcomes (III.A.1.c).

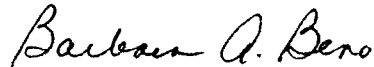
I also wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. The Commission noted some of the above deficiencies during the institution's comprehensive evaluation in 2006. It is therefore imperative that the institution move quickly and effectively to resolve the remaining deficiencies

While Recommendation 1 was also noted by the year 2002 evaluation team, the Commission has extended Palo Verde College's time to correct this deficiency for good cause because the Commission found the college had demonstrated sufficient progress at the time of the Focused Midterm Report in March 2005. However, the Commission is concerned that the March 2008 comprehensive evaluation team noted the institution had failed to sustain progress toward meeting the Commission standards and is therefore out of compliance.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. 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. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff. 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.

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: Mr. Brian Thieboux, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Palo Verde CCD
Dr. W. David Pelham, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S. DOE