

## ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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July 3, 2014

**Corrected Letter** 

Dr. Peter Maphumulo Acting Superintendent/President Victor Valley College 18422 Bear Valley Road Victorville CA 92395

Dear Superintendent/President Maphumulo:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 4-6, 2014, reviewed the Midterm, Follow-Up, and Special Financial Review Reports submitted by Victor Valley College and the Report of the Evaluation Team that visited Wednesday, April 16-Thursday, April 17, 2014.

The Midterm Report demonstrated that the College has sustained the work to meet the recommendations from the 2011 comprehensive visit with the exception of one section of Recommendation 3 and Recommendation 6. Therefore, the Commission acted to **impose Probation** and require the College to submit a **Follow-Up Report** by **March 15, 2015**. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.<sup>1</sup>

The Follow-Up Report of March 2015 should demonstrate that Victor Valley College has fully addressed Recommendations 3 and 6, noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Eligibility Requirement 17 and Standards III.A.1.c; III.D; III.D.1.a; III.D.1.c; III.D.2.b; and III.D.2.c.

## Recommendation 3: Student Learning Outcomes

As noted in recommendation 2 of the 2005 Accreditation Evaluation Report, and in order to meet the Standards and the Eligibility Requirements, the College should complete the development of student learning outcomes for all programs and ensure that student learning outcomes found on course syllabi are the same as the student learning outcomes found on the approved course outlines of record. The institution must accelerate its efforts to assess all student learning outcomes for every course, instructional and student support program, and incorporate analysis of student learning outcomes into course and program improvements.

This effort must be accomplished by fall 2012, as a result of broad-based dialogue with administrative, institutional and research support. Student learning outcomes need to become an integral part of the program review process, including incorporating detailed documented analysis from SLO assessments and data based research.

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Additionally, faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated learning outcomes should have, as a component of their evaluation, effectiveness in producing those learning outcomes. (I.B.1-7, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.a-b, II.A.2.e-f, II.B.4, III.A.1.c, E.R. 10)

With regard to Recommendation 3, the team reported that Victor Valley has addressed the first four sections of this recommendation and meets Standards I.B.1-7, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.a-b, II.A.2.e-f, II.B.4, and Eligibility Requirement 10. However, the College needs to complete the final section of this recommendation and demonstrate that it meets Standard III.A.1.c.

<u>Recommendation 6</u>: In order to meet the Standards, the College should develop long-term fiscal plans that support student learning programs and services that will not rely on using unrestricted reserves to cover deficits. Additionally, the College should provide timely, accurate and comprehensive financial data and budget projections for review and discussion throughout the institution. (III.D, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.c, III.D.2.b, III.D.2.c, E.R. 17)

With regard to Recommendation 6, the Commission also reviewed the Special Financial Review Report and determined that this fiscal issue has not yet been resolved and the associated Eligibility Requirement and Accreditation Standards are not yet met. Victor Valley College will need to demonstrate that the fiscal issues, as noted in Recommendation 6, have been fully resolved at the time of the March 2015 Follow-Up Report. This will be verified by the evaluation team during the visit.

Under U.S. Department of Education enforcement regulations, the Commission is required to take immediate action to terminate the accreditation of an institution which is out of compliance with any standard. In the alternative, the Commission can provide the institution with additional notice and a deadline for coming into compliance that is no later than two years from when the institution was first informed of the noncompliance.

In exceptional situations, if the institution has done all within its authority to reach compliance on any standard but remains out of compliance, the Commission is permitted by regulations to allocate a one-time, short-term "good cause extension" for the college to reach compliance prior to acting on the institution's termination. However, continued noncompliance with multiple standards would diminish the appropriateness of such an extension. Victor Valley College should fully resolve the noted deficiencies by **March 2015**.

Federal regulations also require the Commission to post a Public Disclosure Notice (PDN) for institutions placed on Probation or Show Cause, or when accreditation is withdrawn. The PDN is used to inform the public of the reasons for such a severe sanction. The Commission will post the PDN on the College's entry in the Directory of Accredited Institutions online at <a href="https://www.accjc.org">www.accjc.org</a>. The institution is permitted to post a response to the PDN. Enclosed find the proposed notice for Victor Valley College with this action letter; your comments on it are invited. Please provide the College response for posting, if any, by July 31, 2014.

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The Midterm, Follow-Up, and Special Financial Review Reports submitted in March 2014 will become part of the accreditation history of the College. The Commission requires that you give these Reports, the Report of the Follow-Up Evaluation Team, and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your Midterm, Follow-Up, and Special Financial Review Reports. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Midterm, Follow-Up, and Special Financial Review Reports, the Report of the Follow-Up Evaluation Team, 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.

Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle.

Victor Valley College must demonstrate to the Commission at the time of the next regularly scheduled report and visit that the deficiencies noted above in Recommendations 3 and 6 have been resolved and the recent changes implemented to resolve the remaining deficiencies have been sustained and that the College meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

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 institutional integrity, effectiveness, educational quality, and student success.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.

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President

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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: <a href="http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc">http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc</a>.