

June 13, 2018

Dr. Roger Schultz, Superintendent/President
Mt. San Jacinto College
1499 N. State Street
San Jacinto, CA 92583

Dear President Schultz:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 6-8, 2018, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Mt. San Jacinto College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 12-15, 2018.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years**.

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Mt. San Jacinto College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Commendation 1

The team commends the College for its systemic integration of data-informed planning, evaluation, and resource allocation in pursuit of enhancing student learning and achievement. Supported by its highly engaged Institutional Effectiveness Unit and Institutional Planning Committee, analysis of data to guide decision-making permeates every aspect of the College, creating a true culture of evidence throughout the institution (Standard I.B.9).

Commendation 2

The team commends the College's Curriculum Committee for its forward-thinking faculty leadership. In one example, the committee proactively analyzes all high-unit courses for impediments to timely student progress towards degree attainment. By collaboratively addressing such institution-wide issues, the faculty continuously improves instructional courses, programs, and services through comprehensive evaluations used to promote student success (Standard II.A.2).

Commendation 3

The team commends the College for the development of innovative learning technology support services through the DELTA team. This approach provides intensive online student support and training as well as faculty professional development and support to promote high impact practices in using instructional technology for all modalities of learning that is showing gains in academic quality and student success (Standard III.C.4).

Commendation 4

The team commends the College for its effective oversight of finances including the management of grants through processes that include all grant and categorical funds in the budgeting process. This not only incorporates restricted funds into the integrated planning process, it also ensures that the College plans for the eventual end of grant funding (Standards III.D.1, III.D.10).

Commendation 5

The team commends the College for strategically identifying and allocating resources for payment of liabilities and future obligations. Over the last several years, through strategic planning and budgeting and with strong Board leadership, the College budgeted conservatively and set aside one-time funds to address long-term liabilities and, as a result, increased their Moody's credit rating from Aa2 to Aa1, one of the highest in the state (Standards III.D.1, III.D.11).

Commendation 6

The team commends the Board for advancing the culture of collegiality and support so that the Board now acts as a collective entity. Once the Board reaches a decision, all Board members act in support of the conclusion. This intentionally united focus of the Board on the greater good of the institution provides a powerful and inspirational behavioral standard for the College community (Standard IV.C.2).

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet Standards. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the team report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2022. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2025.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Mt. San Jacinto College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Ms. Rebecca Teague, Accreditation Liaison Officer

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/publications/>.