

January 27, 2020

Dr. Kim Lopez, Acting President
College of San Mateo
1700 W. Hillsdale Boulevard
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Dr. Lopez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 15-17, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by the College of San Mateo. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College September 30 – October 3, 2019.

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 information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and Require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than March 1, 2021**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

Commendations

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

College Commendation 1: The Commission commends the College on its significant and effective variety of learning support for students including the Learning Center, discipline-specific labs, and library. (II.B.1)

College Commendation 2: The Commission commends the College for its progressive and collaborative governance and planning processes, leading to a culture of trust. (IV.A.1, IV.A.5)

College Commendation 3: The Commission commends the College for the collaboration between its CTE programs and local industry partners. The networking, communication, and cooperation for the purpose of curriculum development student learning, and program enhancement is impressive. (II.A.14)

District Commendation 1: The Commission commends the District for its significant resource support for student success initiatives through its Innovation Fund Program. (II.C.5, III.D.1)

District Commendation 2: The Commission commends the District for the initiation and implementation of the Promise Scholars Program, creating a broad and sustainable program to increase student access and completion. (II.C.3, III.D.1)

District Commendation 3: The Commission commends the District for its support and implementation of the City University of New York (CUNY) ASAP replication program. This approach provides a progressive approach in system-wide support for students and invests significant resources in student success and equity. (II.C.3)

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the College recommendations. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education; Standard II.A.2 (College Requirement 1): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the college establish a policy defining regular and substantive instructor-initiated contact with students for Distance Education courses. The Commission requires that the college provide professional development opportunities for faculty to ensure Distance Education courses include regular and substantive instructor-student interaction.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. 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.

¹ For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

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On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that the College of San Mateo 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Mr. Michael Claire, Chancellor, San Mateo Community College District
Dr. Hilary Goodkind, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Attachment