



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 7, 2014

Dr. Angela Fairchilds, President
Columbia College
11600 Columbia College Drive
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear President Fairchilds:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 8-10, 2014, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Columbia College and the report of the Evaluation Team that visited November 14, 2013. The Commission took action to **remove Warning** and **reaffirm accreditation**.

The College has provided evidence, and the team verified, that it has addressed College Recommendation 1 and 2 and District Recommendation 2 and 3 and has met the Standards associated with those recommendations. Assessment of student learning outcomes and use of results for improvement is in place for all five major areas of assessment, including: courses, instructional programs, administrative services, student support services, and library and learning support services. The concerns raised by the previous follow-up team in 2012, regarding the administrative services, have been addressed, and the College meets I.B.3 and I.B.7 (College Recommendation 1). The College has reviewed the evaluation mechanisms and their effectiveness in improving instructional programs, student services, administrative services, and library and learning support services. It also developed an ambitious calendar of evaluation and review of the assessment tools. The College meets Standards I.B.6 and IV.A.5 (College Recommendation 2).

The District and Columbia College have provided evidence that the mission statements of Columbia College, Modesto Junior College, and the Yosemite Community College District are now aligned as are college programs at the two colleges. This meets the expectations of Standards III.D, III.D.1 and Eligibility Requirement 17 (District Recommendation 2). The College has provided evidence, and the team verified, the existence and implementation of the revised policies regarding the delegation of authority to the chancellor and presidents. The district has addressed the recommendation and meets Standards IV.A.2.a and IV.B, 3, e (District Recommendation 3).

The Follow-Up Report submitted in October 2013 will become part of the accreditation history of the College. I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated.

Dr. Angela Fairchild, President
Columbia College
February 7, 2014

The Commission requires that you give the reports and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your Follow-Up Report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Follow-Up Report, the Evaluation Team 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.

Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle. Colleges must demonstrate to the Commission at the time of the Midterm Report that the recent changes implemented to resolve deficiencies and meet Standards have been sustained. Columbia College is scheduled to submit its Midterm Report in the **fall 2014**.¹

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 educational quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

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¹ 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: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>)