



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 11, 2013

Dr. Thomas Fallo
President
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90506

Dear President Fallo:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2013 considered the Follow-Up Report submitted by El Camino College College and the report of the evaluation team which visited November 14, 2012. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution.

The Commission acted to **issue Warning** and require El Camino College to submit a **Follow-Up Report**¹ by **October 15, 2013**. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course deviating from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards or Commission policies to an extent that gives concern to the Commission. The Commission will specify a time within which the institution must resolve deficiencies and may subject the institution to required reports and evaluation visits. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period.

The Report should demonstrate the College has fully resolved the deficiency noted and Standards cited in the following recommendation:

Recommendation 2: The college should immediately define and publish a timeline in respect to how it will develop and implement student learning outcomes at the course, program and degree levels, establish systems to assess student learning outcomes and use the results of such assessments to make improvements in the delivery of student learning, to ensure that the College shall attain, by 2012, the level of Proficiency in the ACCJC Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness ---Part III: Student Learning Outcomes (II.A.1.b; II.A.2; II.A.2.a.2; II.A.6; II.A.7).

Dr. Thomas Fallo
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With regard to Recommendation 2 above, the team noted that a plan and timeline for SLOs had been developed, but the plan had not resulted in the college attaining the level of Proficiency by fall 2012. It was noted that from 2011 to 2012, the main campus increased course student learning outcome (SLO) assessment from 37% to 55%, and program assessment from 84% to 95%. It was further noted that during the same time period, the Compton Center increased course SLO assessment from 32% to 98%, and program outcomes assessment to 38%. The team report noted that some degree programs have only one student learning outcome. While a particular number of outcomes per degree is not specified by the Standards, it is important to assure that assessment of outcomes fully addresses the range of knowledge and competencies expected of students completing a degree at the College and that results from assessment are sufficiently disaggregated to provide information adequate to fine tune curriculum and instruction, and address other needed changes, in order to increase student learning. The College will need to increase and strengthen its current level and usage of SLO assessment in order to meet the Standards.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. The Commission wishes to notify the College that the period of monitoring progress toward fully addressing this area of deficiency has ended. El Camino College must correct the deficiencies noted no later than **October 15, 2013** or the Commission will be compelled to act.

The recommendation contained in the External Evaluation Team Report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the report, the College is expected to use the Evaluation Team Report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. 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 the, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. 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.

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

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Finally, ACCJC staff is available to assist the College with consultation and advice on the recommendation identified above.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my 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 quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Jeanie Nishime, Accreditation Liaison Officer
President, Board of Trustees, El Camino College
Dr. Kindred Murillo, Superintendent/President Lake Tahoe Community College, Team Chair

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*. The *Guidelines* contain the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. The *Guidelines* are available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).