



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 1, 2012

Mr. Tony Cantu
Interim President
Fresno City College
1101 East University Ave
Fresno, CA 93741

Dear President Cantu:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 10-12, 2012, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report, the report of the evaluation team which visited Fresno City College Monday, October 17-Thursday, October 20, 2011, and the information received from the College president and the Chancellor. The Commission acted to issue **Warning** and to require that Fresno City College correct the deficiencies noted. The College is required to complete a Follow-Up Report. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.¹

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies to an extent that raises concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet the Standards. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period. However, the institution's accreditation will not be reaffirmed until the conditions which warranted Warning are resolved. Warning is being issued at this time for deficiencies identified in the team report and associated with District Recommendation 1 from the 2005 evaluation team, and Eligibility Requirement 5.

The Commission requires that the Follow-Up Report be submitted by **October 25, 2012**. The Follow-Up Report should demonstrate that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Accreditation Standards.

¹ Institutions that will be preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission will want to review the new publication *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. This publication 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: (www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc).

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District Recommendation #1: In order for the colleges and District to fully meet the intent of the previous recommendation, the State Center Community College District (SCCCD) must engage in continuous, timely, and deliberative dialogue with all District stakeholders to coordinate long term planning and examine the impact of the planned increase in the number of colleges and the future roles of the centers on the existing institutions. This includes creating, developing, and aligning district and college plans and planning processes in the following areas:

- district strategic plan,
- facilities,
- technology,
- organizational reporting relationship of centers,
- location of signature programs,
- funding allocation,
- human resources,
- research capacity.

(Standards I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.4, II.A, II.B, III.A, III.A.6, III.B.2b, III.C, III.C.2, III.D, III.D.1.a, III.D.1.c, III.D.3, IV.B, IV.B.2, IV. B.3, IV.B.3.f)

College Recommendation #1: In order to meet Standards regarding the college catalog, the team recommends that the Academic Freedom Statement be included in the next publication of the college catalog. (E.R.12, 20, Standards II.A.7, II.B.2)

Eligibility Requirement 5 Administrative Capacity: While the team determined that Fresno City College currently has sufficient staff with appropriate credentials, it also concluded during its visit that the high turnover rate of presidents and other administrators during this last accreditation cycle contributed to the college's challenges.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with Standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. While some recommendations identified as deficiencies were also noted by the year 2005 evaluation team, the Commission has extended Fresno City College's time to correct these deficiencies for good cause. The College must correct the deficiencies noted by **October 2012**.

The College conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in its self study efforts be used to support the continuing improvement of Fresno City College.

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The recommendations contained in the 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 team report, the College is expected to use the report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

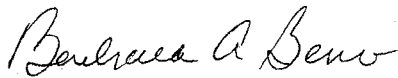
A **final** copy of the Evaluation Team Report is attached. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to disseminate the Evaluation Team Report and this letter to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College Self Study Report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the College make the Evaluation Team Report, the Self Study Report and action letter available to students and the public by placing them on the institution's website. These reports will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

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

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 integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Deborah G. Blue, Chancellor, State Center Community College District
Ms. Kelly Fowler, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, State Center Community College District
Mr. Peter Garcia, Team Chair

Enclosure