



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2011

Dr. Gilbert H. Stork
Interim Superintendent/President
Cuesta College
P. O. Box 8106
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106

Dear President Stork:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-13, 2011, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by the College and the report of the evaluation team which visited Friday, November 5, 2010. The Commission took action to **continue** the College on **Probation** and require the College to complete a Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2011** in conjunction with the College's Midterm Report. That Follow-Up Report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The Follow-Up Report of **October 15, 2011** should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations below:

Recommendation 2: Planning and Assessment

To meet standards, the team recommends that the college complete the strategic plan, institute an ongoing systematic evaluation process that communicates and clarifies the assessment tools used to measure the effectiveness of ongoing planning, program review, resource allocation processes and student learning outcomes. (Standard 1.B, 1.B.3, 1.B.4, 1.B.6, 1.B.7).

Recommendation 6: Technology Resources

To meet standards, the team recommends that the college establish a process for regular and systematic planning, acquisition, maintenance and replacement of its technology infrastructure, existing and newly acquired technology and equipment to meet institutional needs; and that the process is integrated with other college planning, assessment, and resource allocation. (Standard III.C.1.c., III.C.1.d.)

Recommendation 7: Financial Planning and Stability

To meet standards, the team recommends that the college review and assess its long range financial and capital planning strategies to ensure sufficient funding levels for ongoing operations. The team also recommends that the college and the college foundation review and communicate the fiscal status of investments and implement appropriate protections to secure fiscal solvency. (Standard III.D.1.c., III.D.2.a., III.D.2.e., III. D. 3).

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Eligibility Requirement 5: Administrative Capacity

The Commission notes that Cuesta College does not have sufficient staff, with appropriate preparation and experience, to provide stable administrative services necessary to support its mission and purpose. The College needs to move expeditiously to fill vacancies and interim/acting positions.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with Accreditation Standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. Cuesta College must correct the deficiencies by **October 2011** or the Commission will be compelled to act. These issues were identified by the 2008 evaluation team, but deadline for resolution has been extended because the institution has completed much of the work necessary to address these issues.

Commission Reminder: The Commission expects that institutions meet standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission reminds Cuesta College that it must be prepared to demonstrate that it meets these standards by fall 2012 (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, and II.C.2).

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the Team Report and this letter dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories to your college Follow-Up Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the Team Report and the Follow-Up Report be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the Report to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Cuesta College should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2011**.

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

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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 quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. A. Cathleen Greiner, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, San Luis Obispo County CCD
Dr. Frances White, Team Chair