ACCJC
ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Richard Winn, Interim President
Raúl Rodríguez, Chair

CORRECTED LETTER

June 23, 2017

Dr. Kristin Clark
President
West Hills College Lemoore
555 College Avenue
Lemoore, CA 93245

Dear President Clark:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 7-9, 2017, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary documents submitted by West Hills College Lemoore, and the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the evaluation team that visited March 6-9, 2017. College leadership, including the president of the governing board and the College president, certified the College's report, which was submitted in application for reaffirmation of accreditation. The purpose of the Commission's review was to determine whether the College continues to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies (hereafter called Standards).

After considering the material noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for seven years** and to require **a Follow-Up Report in 18 months** on the issues identified in the team's findings of noncompliance.[1] Reaffirmation indicates that the Commission has determined that the institution is in substantial compliance with Standards. West Hills College Lemoore is required to submit its Follow-Up Report by **October 1, 2018**. The Report should demonstrate that the College has resolved all deficiencies and meets Standards.

The Commission finds the College out of compliance with Standards I.B.4, I.B.5, II.A.3, and II.A.11 (College Recommendation 3) and IV.C.7 (District Recommendation 2).

College Recommendation #3 (Compliance)
In order to meet the Standard, the Team recommends that all program outcomes be assessed and become part of the SLO cycle, and the SLO Committee facilitate the work of mapping, assessing, analyzing and using for improvement the Institutional Learning Outcomes. Additionally, the results of Program Level Outcomes and Institutional Level Outcomes should be integrated into institutional planning and resource allocation. (Standards I.B.4, I.B.5, II.A.3, II.A.11)

[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 found on the ACCJC website at: http://accjc.org/college-reports-to-accjc/.

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District Recommendation #2 (Compliance)
In order to increase effectiveness, the team recommends that the District establish a long term plan for the systematic review and revision of all Board policies and establish a formal process for documenting the review of policies in which no revisions are made. (Standard IV.C.7)

Improving Institutional Effectiveness
The Team Report noted Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 and District Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness (improvement recommendations). The Commission acted to change Recommendation 1 to a recommendation to increase institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but highlight areas of practice for which College attention may be needed. Consistent with its policy to foster continuous improvement through the peer-review process, the Commission expects institutions to consider the advice for improvement offered. In the Midterm Report, the College will include any actions taken in response to the evaluation team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps
The Team Report provides details of the team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet the Standards. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Team Report represent the best advice of the evaluation team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the College to come into compliance (or to improve).

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the fourth year after each comprehensive evaluation. West Hills College Lemoore will submit the Midterm Report by **March 15, 2021**. The Midterm Report describes resolution of any team recommendations made for improvement, includes a summary of progress on College-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the ISER, and forecasts where the College will be at the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

A **final copy** of the Team Report is attached. Commission changes to the Team Report are noted on a separate page for inclusion with the Team Report. The College may now duplicate and post copies of the enclosed Team Report with this added page.

The Commission requires that the College give the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to those who were signatories of the ISER and to make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by posting them on the College website.

Dr. Kristin Clark
West Hills College Lemoore
June 23, 2017

Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the collaborative work that West Hills College Lemoore undertook to prepare for institutional self-evaluation, and to support the work of the external evaluation team. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Accreditation and peer review are most effective when the College and the ACCJC work together to focus on student outcomes and continuous quality improvement in higher education.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We would be glad to help you.

Sincerely,

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
Interim President

RW/tl

Cc: Dr. Frank Gornick, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

Attachment