



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association  
of Schools and Colleges*

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February 6, 2015

Dr. Dianne Van Hook  
Chancellor  
College of the Canyons  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita CA 91355

Dear Chancellor Van Hook:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 7-9, 2015, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report and the Report of the External Evaluation Team that visited College of the Canyons September 29-October 2, 2014, as well as the additional documents submitted by the College.

**College Accreditation Reaffirmed:**

The Commission took action to **reaffirm accreditation**. Reaffirmation is granted when the institution substantially meets or exceeds the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies. The College Recommendations are directed toward strengthening the institution, not correcting situations where the institution fails to meet the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies. The institution is required to submit a Midterm Report in the third year of the six-year accreditation cycle.

College of the Canyons should submit the **Midterm Report** by **March 15, 2017**. A Midterm Report indicates resolution of the team recommendations made for improvement, includes a summary of progress on College-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the Self Evaluation Report, and forecasts where the College expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.<sup>1</sup>

**Improvement of Institutional Effectiveness:**

In its report, the team noted Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 for increasing institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but do highlight areas of practice for which College attention is needed. The Commission requires that institutions address recommendations for increasing institutional effectiveness as an aspect of maintaining compliance with Standards and continuous quality improvement. The College should plan to fully address all improvement recommendations in the Midterm Report.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook  
College of the Canyons  
February 6, 2015

With regard to Recommendation 4 in the External Evaluation Team Report, the Commission noted that the policies are in fact reviewed annually by the College Executive Cabinet and forwarded to the Board only when revisions are needed. Therefore, the Commission acted to set aside this team recommendation.

College of the Canyons conducted an educational quality and institutional effectiveness review as part of its self evaluation. College-identified improvement plans are another important outcome of the comprehensive self evaluation process. These plans provide a way for the institution to link its self evaluation to the regular ongoing evaluation of institutional plans and processes, and to integrate accreditation self evaluation into the ongoing planning and improvement efforts at the institution. The College will want to track and document changes coming out of its self-identified improvement plans for reporting during the accreditation cycle. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in its self evaluation efforts be taken into account in the continuing improvement of the College.

The External Evaluation Report that was sent to the institution provides details of the team's findings with regard to each Eligibility Requirement and Accreditation Standard and should be read carefully and used to understand the team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the External Evaluation Report represent the best advice of the peer evaluation team at the time of the visit. Institutions are expected to take all action necessary to continuously comply with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies. The Commission wishes to remind you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the Report, College of the Canyons is expected to use the External Evaluation Report to improve educational programs and services.

I have previously sent you a copy of the External Evaluation Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that the College give the Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External Evaluation Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to College staff and to those who were signatories of the College Self Evaluation Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the College's Institutional Self Evaluation Report, the External 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 more than one click from the institution's home page.* If you would like an electronic copy of the External Evaluation Team Report, please contact Commission staff.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook  
College of the Canyons  
February 6, 2015

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness, and educational quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

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<sup>1</sup>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>).