

June 13, 2018

Dr. Eva Bagg, President
Barstow Community College
2700 Barstow Rd.
Barstow, CA 92311

Dear President Bagg:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 6-8, 2018, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Barstow Community College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 5 – 8, 2018.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and require a Follow-Up Report, due October 1, 2019.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Barstow Community College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Commendation 1: The team commends the College for making significant structural changes to its counseling services that have resulted in a more integrative approach to providing students with timely, useful, and accurate information, enhancing student retention and completion. By physically distributing the counselors throughout the college, and assigning specific cohorts, the college has improved the advisory experience for all students. A high-touch approach involving outreach to at-risk students and the use of peer advisors has yielded further positive results, particularly in relation to retention. (III.C.3, II.C.5)

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as addressed in the College recommendations. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

Standard I.B.2, II.A.3 (College Recommendation 1): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the College assess program level outcomes for all instructional programs to assure currency, improve teaching and learning strategies, and promote student success.

Standard III.A.5 (College Recommendation 2): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the College to systematically evaluate employees at stated intervals.

Standard III.A.13 (College Recommendation 3): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the College update the code of ethics for personnel to include the consequences for violation.

Standard III.B.4, III.C.2 (College Recommendation 4): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the College address the total cost of ownership for physical and technological resources in support of the Colleges' mission, operation, programs, and services.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendation 5 for improving institutional effectiveness. This recommendation does not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet Standards. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the team report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

¹ For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

Subsequent to the Follow-Up Report described above, the next report from the College will be the Midterm Report² due on March 15, 2022. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2025.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Barstow Community College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

CC: Dr. David Morse, Accreditation Liaison Officer

² Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/publications/>.