

June 23, 2017

Dr. David Wain Coon
Superintendent/President
College of Marin
835 College Avenue
Kentfield, CA 94904

Dear President Coon:

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 College of Marin, 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. College of Marin 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.C.1, I.C.3, II.A.3 (Recommendation 11), and III.A.1 (Recommendation 12).

Recommendation 11 (Compliance)

In order to meet the Standards, the college should take the steps necessary to ensure there is consistent identification of student learning outcomes on the course syllabi and that they correspond with the existing official course outline of record. The College should also ensure that all program level outcomes are available to students. (I.C.1, I.C.3, II.A.3)

Recommendation 12 (Compliance)

In order to meet the Standard, the institution needs to employ safeguards to ensure hiring procedures are consistently followed that address serving its diverse student population. (III.A.1)

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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Need to Resolve Deficiencies

Standards represent practices that lead to academic quality and institutional effectiveness and sustainability. Deficiencies in institutional policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes which lead to non-compliance with any Standard will impact institutional quality and, ultimately, the educational environment and experience of students. The evaluation team has provided recommendations that give guidance for how the institution may come into compliance with Standards.

Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1 through 9 for improving institutional effectiveness (improvement recommendations). The Commission acted to change Recommendation 10 and Recommendation 13 to recommendations 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. College of Marin 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 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.

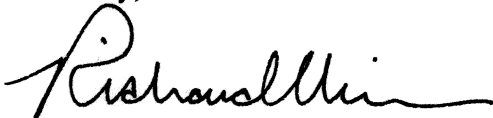
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Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the collaborative work that College of Marin 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "W".

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
Interim President

RW/tl

Attachment