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News Contact:

[Cathy Summa-Wolfe](#), Director

Communications & Community Relations

415-485-9528

Accrediting Agency Reaffirms College of Marin's Accreditation

College Receives Several Commendations and Recommendations

Kentfield, CA—February 3 , 2011—In a letter received yesterday from Dr. Barbara Beno, President of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), College of Marin received official notice that its accreditation had been reaffirmed. The Commission met last month and made its recommendation after reviewing College of Marin's Institutional Self Study Report (2010) and the report submitted by the evaluation team following their visit on October 25 through 28, 2010. The reaffirmation is a victory for college faculty, staff, students, administration and members of the Board of Trustees who made compliance with accreditation standards a top priority. The college received several commendations, recommendations and a requirement to submit a follow-up report in October 2011.

"This, of course, is tremendous news and a positive reflection of the hard work and dedication of the College of Marin community in working toward meeting and/or exceeding the standards set forth by WASC," said Superintendent/President David Wain Coon, Ed.D.

The Commission commended the college for a variety of achievements, including effective use of the college's mission statement in governance and integrated planning; development of an online enrollment management tool; praise for the academic senate's role in developing a wiki that will be used for implementing student learning outcomes; creation of a new student athlete support program; providing mental health and family counseling services to its students, commitment to sustainability using geothermal technology in its Measure C facilities projects, and the governing board's commitment in revising board policies and administrative regulations and making them publicly available through the college website.

The Commission also made a number of recommendations, including ensuring that the planning and budgeting processes are linked, development of a facilities master plan, allocation of resources to support distance education, acceleration implementing student learning outcomes, and development of a sustainable technology plan. The college will have to fully address the Commission's recommendations by the October due date.

"Although we continue to have our work ahead of us on behalf of our students, we clearly have much to celebrate," said Dr. Coon.

A copy of the complete commission report is available by contacting Cathy Summa-Wolfe at 415.485.9528.

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College of Marin is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at: www.accjc.org. College of Marin is one of 113 public community colleges in California and approximately 13,000 credit, noncredit, and community education students enroll annually.

College of Marin students seeking instruction-related disability accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office, (415) 485-9406. Individuals seeking special assistance to accommodate a disability may call the Student Activities & Advocacy Office, (415) 485-9376.

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News Contact:

[Cathy Summa-Wolfe](#), Director

Communications & Community Relations

415-485-9528

College of Marin Receives Warning from Accrediting Agency

Kentfield, CA—Feb 9, 2012—In a letter received by the College of Marin President/Superintendent's Office on Feb. 6, 2012, Dr. Barbara Beno, president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), issued a Warning sanction asking that the college correct deficiencies noted in commission's Follow-Up Report dated Oct. 31, 2011.

Dr. Beno also states that "the accredited status of the institution continues through the warning period." **This means that COM continues to be fully accredited as it addresses the commission's recommendations.**

College of Marin's accreditation was fully reaffirmed in Jan. 2011 by ACCJC/WASC. The reaffirmation was granted with the requirement that the college demonstrate resolution of nine recommendations by Oct. 15, 2011.

An accrediting team led by Dr. Jose M. Ortiz, superintendent/president of Allan Hancock College, visited the college on Oct. 31, 2011 in order to assess progress towards completing the recommendations. The team's follow-up report found that while the college has made great progress towards resolution of the recommendations, more work is needed on Recommendations 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9.

ACCJC/WASC is requiring that COM provide a Follow-Up Report demonstrating full resolution of all deficiencies that were identified in the Oct. 31, 2011 Accrediting Team Report.

"While the college has made significant progress, we acknowledge that there is more work to be done as outlined in ACCJC/WASC's recommendations. I believe the college is well on its way towards timely resolution," said COM Superintendent/President Dr. David Wain Coon. "This will be the highest priority for the college over the next months and I have great faith in ability of our faculty, staff, students and board to meet this goal."

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News Contact:

[Cathy Summa-Wolfe](#), Executive Director

Communications, Community Relations, and Advancement

415.485.9528

ACCJC/WASC Removes Warning

Visiting Team Chair Says College of Marin Was Well Prepared

Kentfield, CA— February 13, 2013—In a letter received yesterday, Dr. Barbara A. Beno, president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges/Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), wrote that the Commission took action to remove College of Marin from Warning.

"This is great news for the College and a testament to the continuing hard work and dedication of faculty, staff, students and our Board of Trustees to take very seriously the Commission's accrediting standards and its recommendations," said College of Marin Superintendent/President David Wain Coon, Ed.D.

Meeting accreditation standards requires a strong institutional commitment to continuous quality improvement and an

evidence based demonstration that a variety of planning processes are in place and working effectively.

ACCJC/WASC's Team Chair for the College's follow-up visit, Dr. Jose Ortiz, indicated in his final report to the Commission that College of Marin has made significant progress in all areas and in several areas has exceeded expectations.

"The College has made remarkable strides in addressing the recommendation on facilities planning....The College's Facilities Planning Committee worked tirelessly to complete a solid, well-developed facilities master plan," wrote Ortiz.

Ensuring student success is one of the Commission's greatest concerns and accreditation is now linked with the successful implementation of effective Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). College of Marin received high marks in this area. Faculty and staff in particular played a key role in successfully identifying and assessing SLOs for all courses, programs, and services throughout the College.

Ortiz also noted that in the two years since the last comprehensive visit, the College's Board of Trustees and the superintendent/president fully addressed Recommendation 9, which focused on board policies and procedures.

"The most overarching measure of this is the general improved morale of the college, evidenced by anecdotal information volunteered by staff members, by the outcome of survey results, and by the general developments that have occurred with the hiring of the superintendent/president in December 2010," said Ortiz in his report to the Commission. "The reward for this effort is a remarkable turnaround...."

The complete ACCJC/WASC Follow-Up Report is available online at <http://www.marin.edu/com/ODP/Accreditation.htm>

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News Contact:

[Cathy Summa-Wolfe](#), Executive Director

Communications, Community Relations, and Advancement
415-485-9528

Accrediting Commission Certifies and Accepts COM's Midterm Report

KENTFIELD, CA—February 13, 2014—Barbara Beno, Ph.D., president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), wrote in a [letter](#) received last week that "based on the College's report and documentation submitted, the College has met the Standards...." With the acceptance of the College's [Midterm Report 2013](#) by the commission, preparations will begin for the next *Self Study Report*, which is due in fall 2016. I want to thank all of the faculty and staff who worked diligently and enthusiastically in completing the report. I would like to include special thanks to our acting Accreditation Liaison Officer **Sara McKinnon** and PRIE Administrative Assistant **Barbara David** for their excellent work in finalizing the report and organizing the evidence. More information on College of Marin's accreditation reports is available [online](#).

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