



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2010

Dr. Susan Carleo
President
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Dear President Carleo:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9-11, 2010, reviewed the Midterm Report submitted by Los Angeles Valley College. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team had been addressed by the institution and that the College had also provided an update on the self-identified planning agendas which were included in the Self Study Report.

The Commission took action to accept the Midterm Report. Institutions are expected to meet Accreditation Standards at all times during the six-year review cycle and to provide evidence that they have addressed and resolved all recommendations made by the previous comprehensive evaluation team. This will be confirmed at the time of the next regularly scheduled visit. The report submitted by Los Angeles Valley College details the college's achievements to meet College and District recommendations. The College moved to an annual review of the mission and values statement, added a Dean of Research and Planning position to strengthen institutional planning; accelerated the development and assessment of SLOs to the degree that LAVC should be able to meet the 2012 Commission timeline for SLOs (97% of courses and 100% of programs have SLOs); addressed the deficit through debt relief, enrollment management, efforts to increase revenue, limited replacement of personnel, budget management and monitoring, and reduction and control of expenses; and increased faculty, staff, and student participation in decision-making and communication campus wide. The Midterm Report also detailed significant achievements for the three District recommendations. Achievement of stated student learning outcomes are a component of faculty evaluation as per the current faculty contract; significant steps have been taken to address the retiree health benefit liability; and a written policy and process now codifies the practice of evaluating college presidents and the District Chancellor.

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The Midterm Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this.

Commission Concern 1: The Commission expects that institutions meet standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission therefore requires that the College demonstrate in its next comprehensive evaluation report that the college has met these standards. (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, and II.C.2).

Commission Concern 2: In assessing compliance with Standard III.D Financial Resources, the Commission has a concern about whether the Los Angeles Community College District's financial resources are sufficient to support student learning programs and services and to improve institutional effectiveness. The distribution of resources supports the development, maintenance, and enhancement of programs and services. Provisions of Standard III.D requiring a level of financial resources that provide a reasonable expectation of both short-term and long-term financial solvency necessitates that the District and the College begin to act in a way that will create and implement funding plans to ensure that adequate cash or liquid resources will be available to pay for OPEB liabilities at the time those costs become due.

The Commission notes that colleges and districts not making the minimum payment or Annual Required Contribution (ARC) are now accumulating unfunded liabilities that will require cash to be paid out when benefits are paid to retired employees. The consequence of not funding an amount that is at least equal to the ARC is that an unfunded liability will be recorded on the financial statements of the District and the colleges and the ending fund balance or reserves will decline. Eventually, unless this liability is funded the district and the colleges' financial condition will deteriorate to a level that will make it difficult for colleges to meet the requirements of Standard III.D.

The Commission requests that the College and the Los Angeles Community College District provide information about how the ARC is being handled and how funds in an amount at least equal to the ARC are being paid into an irrevocable trust fund in order to pay for liabilities as they become due (ER 17 and Standard III.D.1.b and c). This information should be provided at the time of the comprehensive evaluation visit in Spring 2013.

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Please note that the next comprehensive evaluation of Los Angeles Valley College will occur in **Spring 2013**.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barbara A. Beno in cursive script.

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Tyree Wieder, Interim Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District
Dr. Sandra Mayo, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Los Angeles Community College District