



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
FAX: (415) 506-0238
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org
www.accjc.org

Chairperson
LURELEAN B. GAINES
East Los Angeles College

Vice Chairperson
FLOYD K. TAKEUCHI
Public Member

President
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President
SUSAN B. CLIFFORD

Vice President
STEVE MARADIAN

Vice President
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President
LILY OWYANG

June 30, 2009

Dr. Robert Jensen
Interim Superintendent/President
Solano Community College
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Suisun, CA 94585

Dear President Jensen:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9 – 11, 2009, reviewed the Show Cause Report submitted by Solano Community College, the report of the evaluation team which visited Monday, April 27, 2009, and information presented by college representatives. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution. The Commission took action to **accept the report, remove Show Cause, impose Probation**, and require the College to complete a Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2009**. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The College has taken significant steps to stabilize its fiscal condition and begun work to stabilize its administration. The College has employed the services of an interim President/Superintendent and a State Trustee, has clarified some of the uncertainties in its revenues and expenditures, and resolved some contract issues. It has, as well, hired a new president following a national search. Other important deficiencies remain to be resolved, but the critical issues that destabilized the College have been reasonably addressed.

Probation is issued when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's eligibility criteria, standards, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period.

The Follow-Up Report of October 15, 2009 should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations and concerns noted below:

Dr. Robert Jensen
Solano Community College
June 30, 2009
Page Two

Recommendation 1

It is the responsibility of every constituent group at Solano College, including the Board of Trustees, to participate in productive dialogue, as defined by accreditation standards, that engages the entire college in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the college, and every constituent group must commit to action that improves educational quality and student learning. The college must proceed immediately to take this action and should not allow operational or collective bargaining issues to distract them from participating in planned opportunities for this dialogue, timely implementation of changes for improvement resulting from that dialogue, and assessment of the results of implemented changes. (I.B.1, II, and IV)

Recommendation 2

Improving Institutional Planning: In order to improve institutional planning, the College should clarify and simplify its terminology and processes used in planning so that the vocabulary is more easily understood and accepted institutionally, the planning processes are more integrated, and the plans actually get implemented. (I.A.4, I.B.3, ER 19)

Recommendation 3

Improving Institutional Effectiveness: In order to improve institutional effectiveness the College should establish and implement a clear, systematic, consistent, and ongoing method of measuring and evaluating its effectiveness in achieving stated strategic planning goals and student learning outcomes. (I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.6, I.B.7, ER 10, ER 19)

Recommendation 6

Staffing and Organizational Stability: The college should continue to focus on prior accreditation evaluation reports and implement the recommendations. Stability in personnel, particularly in leadership positions, fiscal services and human resources will help the college to meet the requirements of Standard III and assure institutional integrity. (III.A, III.D.1-3)

Recommendation 7

The College must take immediate and necessary action to address its inability to timely and accurately generate financial and apportionment reports. In order to assure the institution's future fiscal stability, the College should immediately develop a detailed plan with a timeline and fixed responsibility to address the establishment of a reserve for retiree benefits. The College must take immediate responsibility for planning all long-term financial obligations including financial obligations associated with negotiated collective bargaining settlements which should be evaluated and managed to determine long-range impact on institutional financial stability. (III.D.1, III.D.2, III.D.3, ER 17)

Dr. Robert Jensen
Solano Community College
June 30, 2009
Page Three

Recommendation 8

In order for the Governing Board to focus on the institution's major issues and questions of policy, the Board of Trustees is encouraged to delegate full responsibility and authority to the President to implement and administer Board policies and the operation of the college. The institutional leaders should likewise foster empowerment, innovation, and institutional excellence through dialogue that builds trust and increases focus on student learning and assessment of learning outcomes, institutional effectiveness, and integrity. (IV.A.1, IV.A.3, IV.B.1.j, IV.B.2a)

The Follow-Up Report must also provide evidence that Solano Community College now meets Eligibility Requirements 5 – Administrative Capacity, and 18 – Financial Accountability.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. Solano Community College should have resolved the deficiencies noted by **January 2009**. The institution's time to correct the deficiencies is being extended due to the fact that the College has been assigned a Special Trustee by the California Community College Chancellor's office. The College is required to fully resolve all recommendations by June, 2010.

The Show Cause Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. 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 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. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

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,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Robin L. Steinback, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Solano Community College District
Mr. Tom Henry, Special State Trustee
Dr. John Nixon, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S. DOE