



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2006

Dr. Paulette Perfumo
Superintendent-President
Solano Community College
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Suisun, CA 94585

Dear President Perfumo:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 11-13, 2006, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Solano Community College on Tuesday, October 25-Thursday, October 27, 2005. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation with a requirement that the college complete a Progress Report. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

~~The Commission asks that a Progress Report be submitted by March 15, 2007.~~ The Progress Report should focus on the recommendations and concerns as noted below:

General Recommendation 1: Improving Institutional Dialogue

The College should broaden the self-reflective dialogue about the continuous improvement of student learning and institutional effectiveness among and between faculty, staff and administrators within and across different divisions of the College as well as between the Board and President and vice presidents in order to increase college unity and teamwork (I.B.1, II, IV).

General 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).

General 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).

General Recommendation 4: Student Learning Outcomes

The College must develop institutional procedures for the identification of student learning outcomes at the course, program, degree, and institutional level. It must also develop a timeline for the accomplishment of this process and expand this process to include assessment measures for each level, analysis of these assessment processes and results, and documentation of how results of the assessments are used to improve student learning. In addition, the College must involve all faculty, including those in Student Services and Library Resources, in the dialogue about process and results (II.A.1.a, II.A.1.c, II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.f, II.A.2.h, II.A.1.i, II.A.6.a, II.B.4, and ER 16).

General Recommendation 5: Library Resources

In order to have Library holdings and services sufficient in scope and currency to support its curriculum, and be able to extend its services to the off-campus centers in Vallejo and Vacaville, the College will have to address the Library's funding level and, at a minimum, be responsive to the recommendations of the October 1993 and 1999 accreditation teams (II.C.1).

General 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, III.D.2, III.D.3)

General Recommendation 7: Fiscal Integrity and Stability

The College should develop a detailed plan with a timeline and fixed responsibility to address the long-term financial obligations including debt retirement, capital lease options, and establishment of a reserve for retiree benefits. Financial obligations associated with negotiated settlements 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)

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General Recommendation 8: Leadership

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.2.a)

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the team report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the self study report be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, it is expected that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Solano Community College should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2008**. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The college also includes a summary of progress on college-identified concerns as expressed in the self study.

The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of Solano Community College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during **Fall 2011**.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards I and II). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Beno".

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. J. Laurel Jones, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Solano County Community College District
Dr. Marie Rossenwasser, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members