

June 29, 2020

Ms. Stephanie Kashima, President
West Valley College
14000 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Kashima:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 10-12, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by West Valley College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 9-12, 2020. The Commission considered the spoken testimony of Dr. Stacy Gleixner, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. John Hannigan, Accreditation Liaison Officer. The Commission found these additional perspectives to be helpful.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 Months and require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than October 1, 2021.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of West Valley College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Standard II.C.3 (College Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for ensuring equitable access to its students by providing appropriate, comprehensive, and reliable services to students. Included among these are innovative, equity-minded services such as Food for Books, Safe Park program for housing insecure students, free on-campus child care from morning through evening for students enrolled in at least six units, and the Veterans Resource Center and its associated Veterans Flight Deck outdoor convening area overlooking the creek.

Standard III.A.12 (District Commendation 1): The Commission commends the District for its creation of processes, programs, and services to increase faculty equity and diversity, consistent with its mission, including implementation of the Faculty Diversity Internship Program (FDIP) and EEO planning.

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the requirements below. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

Standard III.A.5 (District Requirement 1): In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the District systematically evaluate all personnel at stated intervals in accordance with college policies.

Standard III.C.2 (District Requirement 2): In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the District continuously plan technology updates and replacements with the colleges to ensure quality and capacity of technology are adequate to support the College's mission, operations, programs, and services.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Modifications to Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission modified the team's recommendation(s) as follows:

District Recommendation 2 is changed from an improvement recommendation to a compliance requirement. The Commission also determined that the wording of the recommendations should be revised as follows:

Original District Recommendation 2 (Improvement): In order to improve quality and ensure that capacity of technology is adequate to support the College's mission, operations, programs, and services, the District should continuously plan and coordinate technology updates and replacements with the colleges. (III.C.2)

Revised District Recommendation 2 (Compliance): In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the District continuously plan technology updates and replacements with the colleges to ensure quality and capacity of technology are adequate to support the College's mission, operations, programs, and services. (III.C.2)

Original College Recommendation 1 (Improvement): In order to improve effectiveness of broad-based, systemic evaluation and planning, the Team recommends that the College follow through with its self-identified Actionable Improvement Plans (I.B, III.D.2, III.D.3, IV.A, IV.D.5) to regularly evaluate its policies and practices across all areas of the institution, including instructional programs, student and learning support services, resource management, and governance processes. (I.B.7, I.B.9)

Revised College Recommendation 1 (Improvement): In order to increase effectiveness, the Commission recommends that the College strengthen its processes of evaluating its policies and practices across all areas of the institution. (I.B.7)

¹ For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

Original College Recommendation 2 (Improvement): In order to improve, the team recommends that the College establish institutional procedures to ensure that the officially approved course outlines include student learning outcomes commensurate with the scope of each course, and that students in every class section receive a course syllabus that includes those approved learning outcomes. (II.A.3)

Revised College Recommendation 2 (Improvement): In order to increase effectiveness, the Commission recommends that students in every class section receive a course syllabus that includes learning outcomes from the institution's officially approved course outline. (II.A.3)

The Commission also determined that **College Improvement Recommendation 3** be deleted from the team report.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that West Valley College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact Dr. Stephanie Droker or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.
ACCJC President



Ian Walton, Ph.D.
ACCJC Chair

cc: Mr. Bradley Davis, Chancellor West Valley-Mission Community College District,
Dr. John Hannigan, Faculty Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure