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for COMMUNITY and
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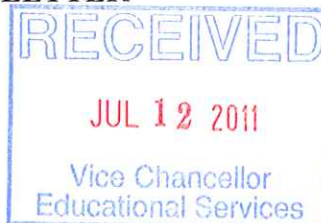
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June 30, 2011

CORRECTED LETTER



Dr. Robert Adams
President
Merritt College
12500 Campus Drive
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear President Adams:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 8-10, 2011, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by College of Alameda and the report of the evaluation team which visited Monday, April 11-Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution, that deficiencies had been resolved, and that the institution now meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

The Commission acted to remove Probation and issue a **Warning** for District issues and to ask that the Peralta Community College District correct the deficiencies noted. The District is required to complete a Follow-Up Report by **March 15, 2012**. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or policy to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet The Standards. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period. Warning is being issued at this time for deficiencies identified in the team report and associated with District Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as noted below. These recommendations replace and supersede all other Commission recommendations assigned to the Peralta District. However, the four colleges of the district must respond to all recommendations assigned to them in Midterm Reports due in March 2012.

The District Follow-Up Report of **March 15, 2012** should demonstrate that the District has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

Commission Recommendation 1:

The District has identified several options to address the OPEB liability without stating which option it intends to pursue. In accordance with Standard III.D.1, b and c, and Eligibility Requirement #17, the District needs to identify the amount of obligation that currently exists as a result of the activities related to the OPEB loss and establish a plan and timeline that reflects how the District will pay off any liability that may have resulted from the OPEB bonds.

Commission Recommendation 2:

In accordance with Standard III.D.2.a, c, and g and Eligibility Requirement #18, the District needs to resolve outstanding audit findings identified in the Department of Education letter dated May 20, 2011 referring to Audit Control Number (CAN) 09-2009-10795. That letter identifies the findings for each of the four colleges as those findings relate to Department of Education areas of funded programs including Title IV and Financial Aid. Additionally, the District should resolve all audit findings in the Vavrinc, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants' audit reports for years 2008, 2009, and future audit reports issued after the date of this recommendation.

Commission Recommendation 3:

While evidence identifies progress, the District has not achieved compliance with Standard III.D. and Eligibility Requirement #17. Specifically, the District has not achieved long-term fiscal stability related to resolution of collective bargaining agreements on compensation and post-retirement benefits. Therefore, in order to meet the Standards and Eligibility Requirements, the District must assess its fiscal capacity and stability and implement actions to resolve the deficiencies.

Commission Recommendation 4:

While evidence identifies progress, the District has not achieved compliance with Standard IV.B and Eligibility Requirement #3. Specifically, the District has not completed the evaluation of Board policies to the end of maintaining policies that are appropriate to policy governance and excluding policies that inappropriately reflect administrative operations. Therefore, in order to meet Standards and Eligibility Requirements, the District must evaluate all Board policies and implement actions to resolve deficiencies.

Commission Recommendation 5:

While evidence identifies progress, the District/Colleges have not achieved compliance with Standard III.D, and Eligibility Requirements #5 and 17. Specifically, the District/Colleges do not demonstrate the fiscal capacity to adequately support quality student learning programs and services. Therefore, in order to meet Standards and Eligibility Requirements, the District/Colleges must evaluate the impact of financial decisions on the educational quality and implement actions to resolve any deficiencies.

In addition, regarding Commission Recommendation 5, Merritt College must evaluate the impact of recent and future financial decisions on the college's ability to sustain programs and services.

Dr. Robert Adams
Merritt College
June 30, 2011
Page Three

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Merritt College should submit the Midterm Report by **March 15, 2012**.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with Accreditation Standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. Merritt College and the Peralta District should have corrected the deficiencies identified by the comprehensive evaluation team report of 2009 by June 2011. The Commission acknowledges the work of the District/College to date and has identified new Recommendations 1-5 above that refine the 2009 comprehensive evaluation team recommendations. The Commission has extended the time to resolve these deficiencies and meet Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards for good cause.

The Follow-Up 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. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing a copy on the college web site can accomplish this. Should you require an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

Finally, ACCJC staff is available to assist the College with consultation and advice on the recommendations identified above.

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

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Wise Allen, Interim Chancellor, Peralta Community College District
Board President, Peralta Community College District
Dr. Linda Berry, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. Michael Claire, Team Chair
Ms. Martina Fernandez-Rosario, U.S.D.E.