



**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
MICHAEL T. ROTA
University of Hawai'i

Vice Chairperson
SHERRILL L. AMADOR
Public Member

President
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President
SUSAN B. CLIFFORD

Vice President
DORTE KRISTOFFERSEN

Vice President
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President
NORVAL WELLSFRY

June 30, 2011

CORRECTED LETTER



Dr. Wise Allen
Interim Chancellor
Peralta Community College District
333 East Eighth Street
Oakland, California 94606

Dear Chancellor Allen:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 8-10, 2011, reviewed the Peralta District Follow-Up Report, the report of the evaluation team, and the presentation by district representatives at the Commission meeting. The Commission took action to remove all four colleges of the Peralta Community College District from **Probation** and issue a **Warning**.

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 is required to submit a Follow-Up Report by **March 15, 2012**. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives and 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.

Dr. Wise Allen
Peralta Community College District
June 30, 2011
Page Two

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.

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. The four colleges 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/Colleges to date and has identified new Recommendations 1-5 above that refine the 2009 comprehensive evaluation team recommendations.

Dr. Wise Allen
Peralta Community College District
June 30, 2011
Page Three

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 colleges 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 District staff and to those who were signatories of your report. This group should include the Board of Trustees. 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 District with consultation and advice on the recommendations identified above.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the educational quality and success of students of the Peralta Community College District. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring 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. Betty Inclan, President, Berkeley City College
Dr. Jannett Jackson, Interim President, College of Alameda
Dr. Elnora Webb, President, Laney College
Dr. Robert Adams, President, Merritt College
Dr. Frank Gornick, Team Chair
Ms. Martina Fernandez-Rosario, U.S.D.E.