



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association  
of Schools and Colleges*

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July 3, 2013

Dr. Donald G. Wallace  
Superintendent/President  
Palo Verde College  
One College Drive  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear President Wallace:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2013, reviewed the Special Report submitted by Palo Verde College and the report of the external evaluation team that visited the College on May 6, 2013.

The Commission noted that the College reported on the seven issues identified in its action letter of February 5, 2012 and has developed a three-year plan to resolve financial issues. The College has eliminated deficit spending and has developed a balanced budget that maintains the minimum 5% contingency reserve. It has developed and utilized available revenue enhancements: The College is updating its actuarial report for its Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), has set aside funds into a Self-insurance fund, and is considering the creation of an irrevocable trust for retiree benefits. The College has developed a plan to retire its debts related to Certificates of Participation and the Supplemental Executive Retirement plan although some aspects of this plan cannot be resolved in the near future.

Plans have been developed so that the College will be compliant with the 50% law in 2012-13 and the College has implemented procedures to monitor this ratio in the future. Utility costs are being controlled, and plans have been developed to ensure continuing control of these costs. One year concessions have been negotiated with appropriate bargaining units although long range modifications have not been negotiated. Pending litigation has been resolved, and the Performing Arts Center has been released for use by the College. The Governing Board has demonstrated its commitment to its role in the fiscal oversight of the District. Changes have also been initiated to the College's internal governance processes to ensure the sustainability of shared decision-making and collegial consultation.

The Commission reminds the College that it is required to submit a **Follow-Up Report** by **October 15, 2013**. The Report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.<sup>1</sup> Details of the Report requirements can be found in the February 11, 2013 Commission action letter to the College.

Dr. Donald G. Wallace  
Palo Verde College  
July 3, 2013

The Special Report and the report of the visiting team will become part of the accreditation history of the College. The Commission requires that you give the reports and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College Reports. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission requires that the Special Report, the Special Visit Team Report, and this action letter be made available to students and the public by placing copies on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution's home page.*

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 educational quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

Cc: Mr. Brian Thieboux, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
President, Board of Trustees  
Dr. Mark J. Zacovic, President, Cuyamaca College, Team Chair

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. It contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).