

January 27, 2022

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

Dear Dr. Wallace:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 12-14, 2022, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Palo Verde College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on October 25-26, 2021. The Commission appreciated your spoken remarks, as well as those of Mr. William Smith, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Student Services/ALO. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the spring 2020 comprehensive visit and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's June 29, 2020, Action Letter.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Issue Warning**. The Commission found that the College has addressed the following compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets:

*Policy on Student and Public Complaints Against Institutions (Requirement 1)*  
*Policy on Distance Education and on Correspondence Education (Requirement 2)*  
Standards I.B.5, II.A.2, and II.C.1 (Requirement 5)

The Commission found **continued non-compliance** with Standards I.B.2, I.B.4, and II.A.3 (Requirement 3) and Standard I.B.3 (Requirement 4). The College is **required to submit a Follow-Up Report<sup>1</sup> to address the remaining deficiencies by October 1, 2022**, which will be followed by a visit from a peer review team. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period.

In accordance with federal regulations and the *Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions*, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within three years of first receiving notification of noncompliance, by June 2023. If the institution cannot document that it has come into compliance within the designated period, the Commission will take adverse action.

The Commission looks forward to receiving the College's report demonstrating that it has addressed the deficiencies, and supports your institution's efforts to come into compliance.

The Commission requires the College to disseminate this Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Peer Review Team Report, and this letter within the institution, including by posting them on the College's website. A final copy of the Follow-Up Peer Review Team Report is attached.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Palo Verde College has undertaken as it responds to these requirements. These efforts confirm that peer review can 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. Cindy Miles or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Cindy Miles, Ph.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Mr. William Smith, Accreditation Liaison Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out plans/agreements to the Commission should review *Guidelines for Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/guides-and-manuals/>.