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ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Mac Powell, President
Lori Gaskin, Chair

January 26, 2023

Dr. Torence Powell
Superintendent/President
Napa Valley College
2277 Napa-Vallejo Highway
Napa, CA 94558

Dear Dr. Powell:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-12, 2023, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Napa Valley College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College on October 10-12, 2022.

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 information noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for 18 months** and **require a Follow-Up Report,**[1] **due no later than March 1, 2024**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

Compliance Requirements

The Commission 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 I.B.2 (College Requirement 1):
In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the College implement processes, including consistent program review and student learning outcome assessment, to ensure the effectiveness of all of its services in meeting student needs.

Standards I.B.7, I.C.5, and IV.A.7 (College Requirement 2):
In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires that the College develop and implement a regular cycle of review and evaluation of institutional practices, board policies, and administrative procedures to ensure effectiveness.

[1] 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/ .

Standards III.B.4 and III.C.2 (College Requirement 3):
In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires that the College plan for and evaluate total cost of ownership of its physical and technological resources.

Standards III.D.1, III.D.2, III.D.3, and III.D.4 (College Requirement 4):
In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires that the College integrate its planning and resource allocation for institutional and annual unit plans to ensure that resources meet both short-term and long-term needs of the institution and support and sustain student learning programs and services.

Standards IV.A.1, IV.A.2, IV.A.3, and IV.A.5 (College Requirement 5):
In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires that decision-making roles and processes throughout the institution be clarified and clearly defined to ensure all constituencies have shared understanding for appropriate participation.

Standard IV.C.12 (College Requirement 6):
In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires that the Board delegate full responsibility and authority to the CEO without Board interference.

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, by January 2026. If the institution cannot document that it has come into compliance within the designated period, the Commission will take adverse action.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Peer Review Team Report noted Recommendations 7 and 8 for improving institutional effectiveness. Improvement 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 these recommendations and the advice contained in the Peer Review Team Report. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the 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 Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. 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 Napa Valley College undertook to prepare for this review. 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. Mac Powell or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President

Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.
Chair

cc: Dr. Robyn Wornall, Accreditation Liaison Officer