



**ACCREDITING
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for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2011

Dr. Elizabeth Armstrong
Interim President
San Diego Mesa College
7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear President Armstrong:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 11-13, 2011, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited San Diego Mesa College Monday, October 11-Thursday, October 14, 2010. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation, with a requirement that the College complete a Follow-Up Report.

The Commission requires that the Follow-Up Report be submitted by **March 15, 2011**. The Follow-Up Report must demonstrate and provide evidence that the institution has resolved the recommendations as noted below. The Commission stresses that the report should provide adequate evidence that the College has resolved the deficiencies noted in the recommendations noted below:

Recommendation 1:

In order to achieve a sustainable program review, planning and student learning outcomes process, the college should develop and implement an integrated process that links all components within program review and ensures that an integrated planning process directs resource allocation.

The team further recommends that the college:

- develop measurable goals and objectives in order to integrate data on student achievement into the planning and resource allocation process;
- develop an ongoing and systematic cycle that links program review, planning, resource allocation and re-evaluation based upon the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data;
- demonstrate that the allocation of resources considers the needs and priorities of the college based upon its mission and goals;
- demonstrate that resource allocation leads to the improvement of institutional effectiveness, and
- communicate the results to appropriate constituencies once those results have been measured and analyzed
(Standard I.B., I.B.1, I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.4, I.B.5, III.B.2.a, III.B.2.b).

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Recommendation 3:

The team recommends that the college improve communication concerning the process used for technology planning to all campus stakeholders, develop a method to engage non-users in technology and also secure stable funding sources for technology resources (III.C.1.a & d).

Recommendation 4:

The team recommends that the college develop an adequate system for program review of Administrative Services which integrates planning and resource allocations and assures the linkage between program review and resource allocation (III.D.1.a).

Commission Reminder: The Commission expects that institutions meet Accreditation Standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission reminds San Diego Mesa College that it must be prepared to demonstrate that it meets these standards by fall 2012 (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, II.C.2, and III.A.1.c).

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. San Diego Mesa College must correct the deficiencies noted by October 2012 or the Commission will be compelled to act.

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the Evaluation Team Report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College Self Study Report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the Evaluation Team Report and the Self Study Report be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the College library can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

The recommendations contained in the Evaluation Team Report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the report, the College is expected to use the Evaluation Team Report to improve educational programs and services and to resolve issues identified by the Commission.

The College conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing improvement of San Diego Mesa College.

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On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Constance Carroll, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District
Mr. Tim McGrath, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, San Diego Community College District
Dr. Brice Harris, Team Chair