

June 12, 2024

Dr. Ashanti T. Hands  
President  
San Diego Mesa College  
7250 Mesa College Drive  
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear Dr. Hands:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting June 5-6, 2024, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by San Diego Mesa 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 February 26 - 28, 2024.

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 written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months** and **require a Follow-Up Report<sup>1</sup>, due no later than October 1, 2025**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

### Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices for which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of San Diego Mesa College in the following areas.

**Standard I.A.3 (College Commendation 1):** The Commission commends SD Mesa for its commitment to mission and building a culture of being the "Leading College of Equity and Excellence" through its innovative, cross-collaborative, and equity-focused practices and professional learning provided by The LOFT and Guided Pathways efforts.

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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 the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report template available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.

### 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 II.A.3 (College Requirement 1):** In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the College ensures that the student learning outcomes listed on course syllabi match those in the approved course outline of record.

**Standard II.A.16 (College Requirement 2):** In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires that the college systematically and regularly improve programs and courses according to their established assessment processes.

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 June 2027. 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 College Recommendation 3 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 San Diego Mesa 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: Mr. Gregory Smith, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District  
Mr. Hai Hoang, Accreditation Liaison Officer