

June 28, 2019

Dr. Kathleen Rose, Superintendent/President
Gavilan College
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd.
Gilroy, CA 95020

Dear President Rose:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Gavilan College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 11-14, 2019.

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 and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for 18 months and require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than October 1, 2020**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Gavilan College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Commendation 1: The College is to be commended for its deliberate and extensive outreach efforts to the communities it serves. The team believes that these efforts have positively influenced the College's educational planning and programming, its long-term facilities planning, and have established stronger relationships with the communities it serves. The community's support of the recent Gavilan Joint Community College District capital improvement bond provides evidence of the College's good work regarding its community outreach efforts (IVB.6).

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the College recommendations. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

1. **Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education (College Recommendation 1):** In order to meet the standards, the Commission requires that the college ensure that distance education courses consistently adhere to the policies established by the College concerning regular and substantive instructor initiated contact with students.
2. **Standard II.A.3 (College Recommendation 2):** In order to meet the standards, the Commission requires the college ensure that students receive a course syllabus that includes student learning outcomes from the institution's officially approved course outline.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 3 and 4 for improving institutional effectiveness. These 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 the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review 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 Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. 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, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Gavilan College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

¹ For more information, refer to "[The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause](#)" available on the ACCJC website.

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If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.

President

RW/tl

cc: Ms. Denee Pescarmona, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure