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COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
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10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
FAX: (415) 506-0238
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org
www.accjc.org

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January 31, 2007

Corrected Letter

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Bill Andrews
President
Bakersfield College
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Dear President Andrews:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 10-12, 2007, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Bakersfield College on Monday, October 23-Thursday, October 26, 2006. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation, with a requirement that the college complete a Progress Report. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission asks that a Progress Report be submitted by **October 15, 2007**. The Progress Report should focus on the institution's resolution of the recommendations and concerns as noted below:

District Recommendations

Recommendation 3: In order to meet the standard and ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to achieving the goals and priorities adopted by the governing board, the team recommends the District Strategic Plan be used to direct the college's strategic focus and Educational Master Plan (Standards II.A, II.B, & II.C).

Recommendation 8: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the colleges follow the Kern Community College District Policy 7D by evaluating adjunct faculty in a consistent, timely manner with procedures that assess current performance and promote improvement (Standard III.A.1.b).

Recommendation 9: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the colleges, with appropriate districtwide input, develop a written code of ethics for all employees (Standard III.A.1.d).

Recommendation 11: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the colleges, working with appropriate districtwide leadership and in consideration of the special conditions of the individual colleges within the district, complete the development, implementation, and assessment of the budget allocation model (Standards III.D.1.a-d, and III.D.3).

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Recommendation 13: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the district Board of Trustees adopt and implement the self-evaluation process being developed and routinely administer the process. In addition, the Board should revise the current ethics policy to include a procedure for dealing with violations of the policy (Standards IV.B.1.g & IV.B.1.h).

Recommendation 14: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the colleges, in conjunction with districtwide leaders, complete an organizational map that clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities between the entities and identifies an evaluation process that will provide for ongoing improvement (Standard IV.B.3).

College Recommendations

Recommendation 1: In order to meet the standard and fully implement the planning processes that the college has put into place, the team recommends that the college provide training on the various planning processes, including use of data in unit planning and program review, and set an implementation timeline that ensures completion of a full cycle of planning and broad-based evaluation (Standards I.B.6 and I.B.7).

Recommendation 4: In order to meet the standards, the team recommends the college develop and articulate an institutional strategic planning framework with links between campus planning, assessment, program review, curriculum, and budget processes. In addition, the college should develop a system to provide information on programs, finances, and these processes on a continuous basis to planning participants (Standards II.A, II.B, II.B.1, II.B.3, II.C, II.C.1.c, and Standard III.D).

Recommendation 6: In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the college develop a planning agenda that will respond to anticipated staffing needs and reflect the changing demographics of the service area (Standard III.A, III.A.4.b).

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 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 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 the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

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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 team report, it is expected that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Bakersfield College should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2009**. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The report also includes a summary of progress on college-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the self study.

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 development of Bakersfield College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during Fall 2012.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards One and Two). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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: Ms. Sandra Serrano, Chancellor, Kern Community College District
Mr. Ken Meier, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Kern Community College District
Dr. Jerry Hunter, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members

Enclosure