

January 25, 2019

Dr. Sonya Christian, President
Bakersfield College
1801 Panorama Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Dear President Christian:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Bakersfield 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 October 1-4, 2018.

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 seven years.**

Commendations

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

Commendation 1: The team commends the College for its exceptional leadership and active engagement to advance student learning and achievement as indicated through the work of governance committees such as Program Review, College Council, Accreditation and Institutional Quality; institutional reports including Closing the Loop and State of the College; and adopting the Guided Pathways framework with intentional outreach to high schools, creating completion coaching teams, and using data coaches to support student success. This is the result of institutional leaders creating an empowering environment to drive innovation. (I.B.4, II.A.7, II.C.5, II.C.6, IV.A.1)

Commendation 2: The team commends the College for its commitment to mission as exemplified by its proactive outreach to and support of its students in the rural portions of its 5,000 square-mile service area, including the communities of McFarland, Arvin, Wasco, Shafter, and Delano, through the Rural Initiatives program. The College's efforts to partner with these and other rural Kern County communities to offer classes and support services at remote sites has helped create the foundation for a college-going culture throughout the Bakersfield College service area. (II.A.1, II.C.3)

Commendation 3: The team commends the College for its commitment to capacity building of all members of the Bakersfield College community. This core value of shared and inclusive learning is evidenced by exemplary and multifaceted professional

development initiatives, including locally-created Title IX training videos for students, “scholarships” for employee attendance at external conferences, and providing real-time and on-demand streamed workshops and events ensuring maximum accessibility and participation by all constituency groups. (III.A.14)

District Commendation 1: The teams commend the District for establishing and maintaining a culture of fiscal stability as evidenced by unmodified audit reports, funds earmarked toward known liabilities, substantial reserves, clearly defined plans to address potential future uncertainties, and a high degree of financial transparency. With the establishment of the District-wide Budget Committee, the District has demonstrated its commitment to collaborative decision-making and continuous improvement. (III.D.1, III.D.9)

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None.

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. 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on October 17, 2022. The institution’s next comprehensive review will occur in the fall term of 2025.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Bakersfield 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 Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/publications/>.

Bakersfield College, page 3

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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Burke, Chancellor
Ms. Elizabeth Rozell, Accreditation Liaison Officer