

January 25, 2019

Ms. Jill Board, President
Cerro Coso Community College
3000 College Heights Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Dear President Board:

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 Cerro Coso Community 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 and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Cerro Coso Community 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 thoughtful scheduling of classes at the Bishop, Lake Isabella, Tehachapi, and Mammoth Lakes sites, thereby allowing students to complete the requirements for a degree or certificate within a two-year period. (II.A.6)

Commendation 2: The team commends the college on its usage of technology to connect students and employees with each other at all campuses to maximize access to courses, programs, services, and participatory governance. (II.A.7, II.B.1, II.C.3, III.C.I)

Commendation 3: The team commends the college on the level of student engagement and leadership. It is evident that student voices are actively solicited and have an impact on the institution's continual process for improvement of services. (IV.A.1)

Commendation 4: The team commends the college president on empowering a leadership team at all campus centers that works cooperatively and consistently to organize the college and engage with the community in keeping with its unique geography and diversity in support of the college mission. (IV.B.2, IV.B.6)

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

The Team Report noted Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness. This recommendation does 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. 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 Cerro Coso Community 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/>.

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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: Mr. Thomas J. Burke, Chancellor
Dr. Corey Marvin, Accreditation Liaison Officer