Public Disclosure Notice
for
Laney College

February 18, 2020

This Notice has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries about accreditation status, consistent with the Commission’s policies on public disclosure. It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Accredited Status for Laney College. This Notice has been reviewed by Laney College, and the institution has been notified of the opportunity to submit a response to this notice. If the College has responded to the Public Disclosure Notice, an electronic link to the institutional response will be found on the ACCJC website in the Directory of Accredited Institutions, with the information for Laney College.

Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (the Commission or ACCJC) certifies that a college has been found to meet rigorous requirements for quality and that there are reasonable grounds for believing it will continue to meet them. The Commission’s requirements can be found on the ACCJC website under Eligibility Requirements & Standards. The accreditation process requires an institution to open itself to examination by a group of professionals who evaluate the degree to which an institution meets the Standards. The Standards set requirements for quality that cover many aspects of the college, including: instruction, student support services, library and learning resources, physical environment, technology services, financial management, institutional governance, institutional integrity and honesty, and achievement of institutional mission. Accreditation is awarded only after an institution demonstrates that it complies with Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies. The Commission reviews the overall quality of each institution every seven years. If an institution is found to need improvements, it may be required to undergo additional reviews and monitoring by the Commission.

Summary of Recent Commission Actions

The Commission imposed Probation on Laney College when the Commission, at its January 15-17, 2020 meeting, reviewed the institution’s Special Reports in response to the Commission letters of November 20, 2018 and June 28, 2019.
Probation is imposed when an institution has been determined by the Commission to have failed to meet one or more standards, and there is a serious concern on the part of the Commission regarding the level and/or scope of the noncompliance issues. When an institution deviates significantly from the Commission’s Standards, but not to such an extent as to warrant a Show Cause mandate or the termination of accreditation, the Commission will impose Probation. The Commission may also impose Probation when the institution fails to respond to conditions placed upon it by the Commission, including a Warning. The Commission will specify the time within which the institution must resolve deficiencies and demonstrate its compliance with the Commission’s Standards, generally twelve to eighteen months. A shorter period may be given if the severity of noncompliance warrants it. During the Probation period, the institution will be subject to reports and visits at a frequency to be determined by the Commission. If Probation is imposed as a result of the institution’s comprehensive review, reaffirmation is delayed during the period of Probation. The accredited status of the institution continues during the Probation period.

The Commission took this action because it determined, per the fiscal review process as detailed in the Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance, that Laney College has not resolved, addressed, or corrected the following deficiencies first noted by the Commission in its letter of November 20, 2018 and subsequent action letter on June 28, 2019:

- Laney College and Peralta Community College District had the lowest fiscal health score in six of the twelve Composite Financial Index (CFI) factors and the lowest scores for any district in the two most heavily weighted factors (Primary Reserve Ratio and Operating Revenue).
- The College/District has not addressed the foundational issues which have bearing on its fiscal health; this includes:
  - a continued structural deficit
  - lack of adherence to Board policies and administrative procedures
  - deficiency in reconciliation and financial control issues
  - key staffing issues
  - its Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligations
  - ongoing unaddressed audit findings

Additional Information in Understanding this Notice

The Commission has evaluated the Special Report submitted by Laney College. The January 27, 2020 action letter from the Commission, which specifies the next steps the institution must take, provides a detailed description of the reasons for Probation. All institutions are required to make the Special Reports and the action letters available to the public. This is usually accomplished by placing these documents on the college website, and the public is directed to seek these documents from the institution directly. Colleges are invited to prepare a response to this notice, and this information may be posted on the college website.

1 ACCJC Policy on Commission Action on Institutions
2 ACCJC Commission Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance
**Current Status and Expected Accreditation Activities**

*Laney College* will be monitored by the Commission and is required to submit a subsequent Special Report, due no later than **November 1, 2020**, addressing the deficiencies, which will be followed by a fiscal monitoring site visit. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period. The Commission will review the college’s Special Report and the fiscal monitoring team’s findings at its meeting in **January 2021**. If the Commission determines that *Laney College* meets the Commission’s requirements, the Commission may act to remove Probation. If the Commission determines that sufficient progress to demonstrate compliance has not been made, the Commission may take further action as permitted under the Commission’s Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions\(^3\).