

ACCJConnect

ACCJC Connect – February 2022



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Call to Action

Invitation for Comments from the Field on ACCJC Policy Revisions (First Read) and Notice of Adoption of Policy Revisions (Second Read)

At its January 12-14, 2022, meeting, the Commission approved seven policies in their Second Read and considered one policy change for First Read. Following its Bylaws, ACCJC invites comments from the field on the first-read policy revisions. [Read more...](#)

Commission Announcements and Updates

Recent Commission Actions on Institutions

ACCJC held its biannual meeting January 12-14, 2022. The Commission Actions on Institutions notification lists the actions taken by the Commission regarding ACCJC member institutions and is posted on the ACCJC website. [Read more...](#)

ACCJC Elects New Officers

At their January 12-14, 2022, meeting, ACCJC Commissioners completed the ACCJC officer election. The Commission is pleased to announce that Commissioner Kathleen Burke was elected as vice chair and Commissioner Michael Claire was elected as secretary/treasurer. We thank the officers-elect for their interest in serving the Commission in a leadership capacity! [Read more...](#)

Spring 2022 Election – Announcement of Vacancies

At its January 12-14, 2022, meeting, the Commission announced its spring 2022 Commission vacancies. The vacancies include three administrative members, two of which have incumbents seeking reelection; two public members; and two peer agency members whose respective agencies will submit nominees. Information about the nomination and application process will be available on the ACCJC website and announced in late March.

[Announcement of Vacancies...](#)

Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Report Process

Each year, ACCJC requires its member institutions to submit both an Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Report to the Commission. On Monday, February 7, instructions were sent to ACCJC member institution CEOs and ALOs. Next Tuesday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m. PST, ACCJC will host a webinar to provide an overview of both reports, and ACCJC staff will be available to answer your questions. CEOs, ALOs, chief business officers, research staff, and others who help compile or complete the annual reports are encouraged to attend! [Webinar information...](#)

Standards Review Update

The ACCJC Standards Review Process hit a major milestone in December, as the Peer Writing Teams delivered initial draft standards and suggested review criteria to the Standards Review Leadership Team for their input. Thank you to the writing team members for their time, expertise, and thoughtfulness in developing this first draft! The Peer Reading Teams will commence their work in early March. Staff look forward to sharing an initial draft with the field in fall 2022 and planning opportunities for listening sessions and feedback from the field. Stay tuned for another update in the spring. The tentative timeline and progress updates are available on the [ACCJC Standards Review website](#).

ACCJC is Committed to Supporting its Colleges through Spring Virtual Visits

In support of our member institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCJC will be conducting all of its spring 2022 site visits virtually. The [Guide for Conducting Virtual Visits](#) was developed to assist colleges, chairs, and team members in conducting and fostering an effective and meaningful virtual accreditation site visit.

Advocacy in Action

As the only institutional accreditor solely committed to the community and junior college mission, ACCJC has a unique opportunity to make sure this mission is respected and honored at the national level. We work with partner agencies to leverage our influence and advocate for all students to have access to quality higher education and the resources they need for success. Check out recent advocacy updates available on the ACCJC website regarding student aid and higher education funding and higher education negotiated rulemaking. [Read more...](#)

Member Focus

ACCJC Welcomes Newly Accredited Member, Mount Tamalpais College

ACCJC is pleased to welcome Mount Tamalpais College! At its January 12-14, 2022, meeting, the Commission acted to **Grant Initial Accreditation** to the college.

For nearly 25 years, Mount Tamalpais College – formerly known as the Prison University Project and Patten University at San Quentin – has provided a general education Associate of Arts degree program, including a robust college preparatory program in writing and math, to students incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. In 2018, the college began the process of applying for accreditation from ACCJC, working through the eligibility, self-evaluation, and candidacy processes. In their February 1, 2022, press release, Mount Tamalpais College writes,

“this is an historic moment for Mount Tamalpais College and our mission to provide access to quality educational opportunity for incarcerated students, and a landmark event in a society that has persistently excluded the incarcerated. San Quentin State Prison is now the site of an academic institution unlike any other in the U.S.: an independent liberal arts college specifically dedicated to serving incarcerated students”.

ACCJC looks forward to continuing to support the work of Mount Tamalpais College as they carry out the college’s profound mission. To read their full press release and to learn more about the institution, [please visit their website...](#)

Upcoming Events

ACCJC Webinar Series – Spring 2022

Commissioners and staff look forward to hosting the ACCJC “Collective Dialogues: Advancing Innovation and Quality with our Institutions” webinar series on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. (PST/PDT). This semester’s topics cover the Annual Report and Annual Fiscal Report, changes in distance education regulations, and the Formative Summative Peer Review Model. Webinars are facilitated by ACCJC Commissioner Randy Beach, Chair of the Educational Programming Committee. The full spring schedule and past webinar recordings are available on the ACCJC website. We hope you can join us for an overview and Q&A session regarding the Annual Report and Annual Fiscal Report on February 15th! [Read more...](#)

ASCCC Accreditation Institute

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) has opened registration for the 2022 Accreditation Institute – Virtual Event, February 25-26. ACCJC is excited to be collaborating with ASCCC on this important event, and appreciates the opportunity to assist colleges in their accreditation efforts to advance educational quality and student learning and achievement. For event information and registration links, [click here...](#)



Please forward ACCJC Connect to Your Colleagues

Please spread the word by forwarding *ACCJC Connect* to colleagues, members of the public, and students. Help ACCJC keep member institution personnel and other interested parties apprised of our news and updates. If you have any questions or comments about this communication, please email communications@accjc.org. Thank you!

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