

# ACCJConnect

ACCJC Connect – July 2022



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## President's Message

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### Dr. Mac Powell Begins his Service as ACCJC's Next President



It is an honor to join you in our collective work of ensuring all students have the opportunity for a transformative educational experience. Since its founding in 1962, ACCJC has supported the work of stakeholders with its core values of integrity, quality assurance, institutional improvement, peer review, student learning and achievement, and collegiality. Watching the recent transformations of ACCJC to be a more inclusive, transparent, and equity-driven organization inspired me to join all of you in our efforts to strengthen the peer-review system and to focus

our attention and energy on the purpose that has brought all of us to higher education: students.

As I shared in my welcome letter to the ACCJC Board, there is nothing more transformative than education, and the power of ACCJC member institutions to influence the lives of students and their communities is deeply inspiring. Having worked alongside ACCJC staff, member institutions, and the students that they serve for so many years, it is an honor to be joining the ACCJC family.

I have already begun to reach out to stakeholders to learn more about how ACCJC can continue to evolve and grow, and am in the process of planning town halls at regional sites throughout the Pacific and California. I hope you will join one of the many convenings, either in person or virtually, and recognize that as we work toward the conclusion of our Standards Review Process there will be many opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

If there is a way that I can serve you, please feel free to reach out to me anytime at [mac@accjc.org](mailto:mac@accjc.org). I want to take a final moment to thank Cindy Miles for her outstanding leadership as interim president, and to the staff of ACCJC who continue to help shepherd the work of the Commission, to whom I am immensely grateful to for this opportunity.

Yours,  
Mac Powell

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## Call to Action

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

At its meeting June 1-3, 2022, the Commission approved one policy in its Second Read and considered two policy changes for First Read. Following its Bylaws, ACCJC invites comments from the field on the first-read policy revisions. [Read more...](#)

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## Commission Announcements and Updates

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### **Recent Commission Actions on Institutions**

ACCJC held its biannual meeting June 1-3, 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 Board Votes to Maintain 2023-2024 Membership Dues - No Increase**

At its meeting held June 2, 2022, the ACCJC Board of Directors took unanimous action in support of maintaining Annual Membership Dues for 2023 – 2024 at the 2022 – 2023 level. This will be the fourth consecutive year dues have not been increased and is a recognition of the important steps ACCJC has taken to be financially responsible amid the uncertain and challenging times we have all faced. [Read more...](#)

### **Standards Review Progresses Towards Presenting a First Draft in Fall 2022**

Last summer ACCJC officially launched its Accreditation Standards Review process, and great progress has been made toward developing the draft Standards. Peer Reading Teams met in March to read and reflect on draft standards in the five distinct content areas. These teams provided feedback related to clarity, usability, and whether the standards spoke specifically to equity and success, in keeping with the Commission's *Policy on Social Justice*. Drafts from the five content areas are being synthesized for review by the Standards Review Leadership Team, which will make final adjustments this summer. The first draft will be presented to the field for dialogue and input in fall 2022! There will be many opportunities for the field to participate in that dialogue, and announcements and instructions for participation will be posted to the [Standards Review website](#) and shared widely when available. [Click here to read the July 2022 Progress Update...](#)

### **ACCJC Remains Committed to Supporting its Member Institutions through the Pandemic and Beyond**

In support of our member institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCJC conducted site visits and other accreditation activities virtually. As part of our own improvement process, we continue to evolve in the delivery of our services and accreditation activities. This fall, the staff liaisons will be visiting campuses to deliver in-person trainings, and teams will be conducting review processes onsite at our member institutions. We recognize the value of balancing effective online trainings and virtual gatherings with in-person events to sustain increased access, equity, and convenience in all accreditation related events.

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## Commission Announcements and Updates *continued...*

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### Spring 2022 Election – ACCJC Welcomes 3 Returning and 4 New Commissioners!

The ACCJC Nominating Committee recently announced the results of the 2022 Commissioner Election. The Commission and ACCJC staff would like to congratulate Kathleen Burke, Michael Claire, and Erika Lacro on their reelection and welcome Jeffrey Ball, David Broad, Ángel Reyna, and Katherine Thorossian as new members. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 nomination and election process! [Read more...](#)

### A Warm Farewell and Heartfelt Thanks to Four Departing Commissioners

As we prepare to welcome our newest Commissioners to ACCJC, we also say goodbye to four departing Commissioners. Ned Doffoney, Public Member; Roberts T. Jones, Public Member; Will Lewallen, Administrative Member; and Matt Russo, WASC-ACS Member, all served two terms. ACCJC staff and Commissioners thank them for their thoughtful and dedicated service to ACCJC, its member institutions, and the students they serve.

### Formative/Summative Comprehensive Peer Review Model Moves Forward

Beginning with the cohort of institutions undergoing comprehensive review in fall 2022, ACCJC has begun the roll-out phase of its comprehensive peer review process! We wish to thank our pilot colleges and peer reviewer teams (Citrus College, Santa Barbara City College, Southwestern College, Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College) who thoughtfully engaged in this new two-semester process and who provided helpful feedback throughout. A full update on the roll-out phase and information about the process, resources, and communications you can expect in the coming months is available on the ACCJC website. [Read more...](#)

### ACCJC Implements a New Report Upload Process

We are pleased to announce that report submissions will now be completed through a secure online cloud service (rather than USB submission). Instructions for content and file structure remain the same. ACCJC staff liaisons will provide the institution's Accreditation Liaison Officer with a unique link to the cloud service in advance of report submission due dates. If you have a report due this semester and have not yet received a link, please reach out to your staff liaison. Thank you!

### Heads Up on *Transfer of Credit Policy Requirements*

As part of its preparation for recognition from the U.S. Department of Education, ACCJC identified an opportunity to strengthen its *Policy on Transfer of Credit* in conformity with federal regulations § 602.24(e) and § 668.43(a)(11). Updates to the policy are being proposed for the Commission's first read and adoption in January 2023. We are giving the field a heads up now, as the changes will affect institutions preparing for preaccreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation with focused site visits scheduled in spring 2023. [Read more...](#)

### Advocacy in Action

ACCJC is a student-centered accreditor, where students are the grounding point for every ACCJC Standard. As the only institutional accreditor solely committed to the community and junior college mission, ACCJC has a unique opportunity to help make sure this mission is respected and honored at the national level. We work with partner agencies to leverage our influence and advocate for the success of all students. Please take a look at recent efforts related to civic learning and democracy engagement, federal student aid, and social justice. [Read more...](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### ACCJC Webinar Series – Save the Dates

Commissioners and staff look forward to continuing the ACCJC “Collective Dialogues: Advancing Innovation and Quality with our Institutions” webinar series this fall. Topics are in development. Beginning in September, monthly webinars will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. (PDT/PST), and will be facilitated by ACCJC Commissioner Randy Beach, Chair of the Educational Programming Committee. Stay tuned to the ACCJC website for the fall schedule. For past webinar recordings, [Click here...](#)

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### 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](mailto:communications@accjc.org). Thank you!

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