

The logo for ACCJConnect is centered in a white rectangular box with a thin black border. The text "ACCJConnect" is written in a dark blue, serif font. The "A" and "C"s are larger and more prominent. Below the text are three horizontal lines. The background of the entire page features a colorful, abstract graphic with wavy, overlapping bands of blue, green, yellow, and red.

# ACCJConnect

**ACCJC Connect – July 2023**



[ACCJC Official Twitter](#)



[www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org)

---

## President's Message

---

### A Year in Review

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an eventful first year for me and likely an eventful year for all of us who support and participate in the peer review system. As I'm sure you are aware, multiple states, regulatory agencies, and presidential hopefuls have offered pointed criticism and outright attacks on institutional accreditors. As part of our ongoing legislative efforts, we have been working with members of Congress and Congressional staff to tell the stories of how our institutions continue to provide outstanding, high-quality, affordable, and accessible education. Our institutions offer the promise of a better future for our students, their families, and generations to follow.

Beyond simply responding to the criticism, ACCJC has spent a year in reflection and transformation: revising our Standards to focus on student outcomes; refining our processes to extend our cycle of accreditation and eliminate reporting that doesn't serve institutional transformation; creating decision-making tools and dashboards to bring greater clarity, transparency, and consistency to our work; and continuing to tell the stories of our institutions, most recently through [ACCJC On The Move](#).

As the costs of delivering a high-quality education increase and institutions' budgets remain strained, ACCJC continues to monitor its own expenses and, for a fifth year in a row, will hold dues/fees stable. Accreditation must continue to be a high-value initiative on all of our campuses that brings together faculty, staff, students, administrators, board members, and everyone responsible for creating a thriving climate that maintains the focus of campus activities on equitable student success.

I am extraordinarily grateful to ACCJC's Commissioners, our Staff, and all of the volunteers who are the lifeblood of the work we all do on behalf of students.

Thank you for an amazing year, and thank you for the promise of another year to follow.


Yours,  
Mac Powell

---

## **ACCJC On The Move**

---

### **Stories of Student Success and Institutional Transformation**

The story of an institution is the story of the people, places, and communities that serve its students. Conversations about student success often focus solely on graduation rates or other benchmark data that can obscure the true impact that institutions, programs, and people have on the human beings served. *ACCJC On The Move* is about our journey to understand the distinct missions of the 138 institutions ACCJC serves, and the promising impactful practices changing lives inside and outside the classroom. Recent features include the **Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Saddleback College, San Diego City College, and Shasta College!** Take a look at [ACCJC On The Move](#), follow us on  [Instagram @accjc\\_onthemove](#), and please say hello when you see President Powell on campus!

---

## **Member Focus**

---

### **Guam Community College Assists with Typhoon Mawar Relief Efforts**

At the end of May, [Guam was hit by Typhoon Mawar](#), one of the strongest storms to reach the island in over 20 years. Residents of the island braved 140 mph winds, rain, loss of power, and flooding. Many homes and businesses were completely lost or sustained severe damage. Various agencies have been working to support Guam through this crisis, including local and federal government agencies, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Guam National Guard, FEMA, and more. Today there are still areas without water or power and people in need of long-term shelter – recovery and rebuilding efforts are ongoing.

Guam Community College (GCC) closed campus to the public on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in anticipation of the storm. Since then, the College and its employees have been integral to the typhoon relief effort. They helped recruit volunteers to assess damage and distribute supplies, [came together to clean up the campus](#), and participated in [relief effort events](#) to support those in need following the storm. GCC Nursing students volunteered in house-to-house health check and assistance programs through the non-profit Todu Guam and [GCC Cosmetology is offering free haircuts](#) as a way to give people a little break from the recovery stress. Additionally, [FEMA set up a Disaster Recovery Center \(DRC\) at Guam Community College](#), where recovery specialists are available to help those applying for FEMA assistance and provide information about other assistance programs. GCC was the first DRC on island and was stood up in two days of the initial site visit by FEMA. The College has also been asked to extend its DRC role through August and will likely be the longest open DRC. The College had to relocate several departments due to damage sustained in the typhoon and delayed the start of their summer semester. But, they are open and moving forward and committed to serving students and the community. Registration for fall is open, and on July 2nd, they hosted a College Fair to highlight the programs and resources available at the College.

Below is a selection of information related to Typhoon Mawar and the relief efforts in Guam.

[“A look back at the destruction and recovery from Typhoon Mawar” – Pacific Daily News](#)

[Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense News Page](#)

[FEMA Guam Typhoon Mawar Disaster Information Page](#)

[Red Cross Update on Typhoon Mawar Relief Efforts on Guam](#)

---

## Call to Action

---

### Invitation for Comments from the Field on ACCJC Policy Revisions (First Read)

At its meeting June 7-8, 2023, the Commission considered three policy changes for First Read. Following its Bylaws, ACCJC invites comments from the field on the first-read policy revisions. [June 2023 Policy Revisions...](#)

### College Futures Foundation Vlogcast “Opportunity Forum with College Futures”

*Opportunity Forum with College Futures* is a conversation space for innovators and influencers to discuss emerging issues and equity solutions in and around public higher education. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, president & CEO of College Futures Foundation, hosts this signature vlogcast series. ACCJC looks forward to engaging and encourages anyone interested to learn more and consider tuning in! [Opportunity Forum with College Futures...](#)

---

## Commission Announcements and Updates

---

### Recent Commission Actions on Institutions

ACCJC held its biannual meeting June 7-8, 2023. The Commission Actions on Institutions notification lists the actions taken by the Commission regarding ACCJC member institutions and is posted on the ACCJC website. [Commission Actions on Institutions...](#)

### ACCJC Board Votes to Maintain 2024-2025 Membership Dues - No Increase

At its meeting held June 7, 2023, the ACCJC Board of Directors took unanimous action in support of maintaining Annual Membership Dues for 2024 – 2025 at the 2023 – 2024 level. This will be the fifth consecutive year dues have not been increased and is a recognition of the important steps that ACCJC has taken to be financially responsible and our desire to remain a valuable partner in the cycle of continuous quality improvement. [2024-2025 Dues and Fees Information...](#)

### ACCJC Adopts 2024 Accreditation Standards

ACCJC is pleased to share that at its June 2023 meeting, the Commission approved the 2024 Accreditation Standards following their second reading. This historic moment is the culmination of a two-year planning, writing, and editing process involving significant engagement with stakeholders from member institutions and the public. ACCJC’s 2024 Accreditation Standards reflect the diversity of ACCJC member institutions, are streamlined and clear, emphasize equity and inclusion, and are focused on student outcomes. [Standards Adoption and Implementation Plans...](#)

### Spring 2023 Election – ACCJC Welcomes 3 Returning and 5 New Commissioners!

The ACCJC Nominating Committee recently announced the results of the 2023 Commissioner Election. The Commission and ACCJC staff would like to congratulate Daisy Gonzales, Jennifer Vega La Serna, and Michael Zimmerman on their reelection and welcome Ralph Hexter, Nathaniel Jones III, Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, Kim L. Morrison, and Jeff Stearns as new members. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 nomination and election process! [2023 Election Results...](#)

---

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

---

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

As we prepare to welcome our newest Commissioners to ACCJC, we also say goodbye to five departing Commissioners. Sonya Christian, Barbara Dunsheath, Mary A.Y. Okada, Sally Pestana, and Carmen Sigler have all completed their final terms. ACCJC staff and Commissioners thank them for their thoughtful and dedicated service to ACCJC, its member institutions, and the students they serve.

### ACCJC Moves Forward with Technology and Data Collection Initiatives

ACCJC Staff continue to work on the development and implementation of a **grant-funded customer relationship management (CRM) system** thanks to the College Futures Foundation. We anticipate completion of the initial development this year, with additional components to be implemented in 2024. The resulting system will provide ACCJC with a comprehensive CRM system to replace its outdated database and will improve the efficiency of the agency's accreditation processes, simplify the comprehensive review process for its member institutions, improve communication with institutional representatives and other stakeholders, provide useful data collection and analysis capabilities, and visualize information to stakeholders to benefit ACCJC and the institutions it serves.

Progress has also been made on the **beta-testing and rollout of dashboards** that will visualize institutions' self-reported annual report and annual fiscal report data. We hope this updated process and resulting data presentations will reduce redundancy of data collection and increase consistency across all Commission activities and decision-making.

### 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 federal regulatory changes and legislation. [ACCJC Advocacy webpage...](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

---

### ACCJC Webinar Series – Save the Dates

Commissioners and staff look forward to continuing the *“Collective Dialogues: Advancing Innovation and Quality with our Institutions”* webinar series in the fall. Webinars are held each month on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. (PST/PDT) and are facilitated by ACCJC Commissioner Randy Beach, Chair of the Educational Programming Committee. Stay tuned to the ACCJC website for the full fall schedule. For now, mark your calendars for two **informational webinars on the 2024 Standards**:

#### **Introducing the 2024 Standards Session 1**

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 1:00-2:00 p.m. PDT

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

#### **Introducing the 2024 Standards Session 2**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 1:00-2:00 p.m. PDT

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

## ACCJC Partners in Excellence Conference Returns in 2024



**Save the Dates:**  
**Thursday, May 9 – Friday, May 10, 2024**

ACCJC is excited for the return of the Partners in Excellence Conference in 2024! The two-day conference will take place at the **Hyatt Regency Orange County**. More information about the program of events will be announced in early fall. Please save the dates and consider joining us next year for this fantastic educational and networking opportunity!

---

### **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!

If you have not already done so, consider subscribing directly to  
*ACCJC Connect* and other ACCJC news and updates.

[Click here to subscribe.](#)