

# ACCJC*Connect*

June 2024



<http://www.accjc.org>



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## President's Message

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### Looking Ahead

Dear Colleagues,

For many of you, the spring semester and graduation ceremonies are complete, and end-of-year celebrations are underway. Summer is ahead, and I wish you all some rest and relaxation as we gear up for next year. Looking ahead, I am writing to share some of ACCJC's plans for the rest of 2024 and 2025.

First, I am most excited to share that the Commission recently approved our [2030 Strategic Plan](#). Recognizing the significant challenges our institutions face with anticipated demographic changes, funding cuts, and the uncertainty of a rapidly changing world, the plan is forward-thinking, responsive to public demand for transparency and equitable outcomes, and focused on supporting our institutions as we all evolve to meet the needs of our new world and the students we serve. Additionally, staff developed a comprehensive 2024-2025 operational plan in support of achieving the strategic goals. To kick off this work, ACCJC will launch three initiatives in the summer of 2024:

1. Creating an Institutional Success Advisory Team, Developing a Rubric for Effective Institutional Outcome Transparency, and Enhancing Annual Monitoring Processes and Supports
2. Developing a Distance Education Rubric to Verify Regular and Substantive Interaction During Comprehensive Reviews
3. Forming a Community Resource Library Team and Developing a Resource Library to Improve Student Success

As part of ACCJC's own processes of self-reflection and continuous improvement, Commission Staff analyzed available data from Commission Actions on Institutions and peer review reports from January 2017 to January 2024 to assess the effects of its Portfolio and Formative/Summative Models and to determine trends that could highlight promising practices and opportunities for improvement. The analysis yielded interesting findings and the full report is available within.

Finally, I would like to highlight that for a sixth year in a row, the Commission voted to hold dues and fees stable. ACCJC understands the immense pressure member institutions are under and will remain responsible, supportive, and of high value to our members.

Please read on for a very full edition of *ACCJC Connect*. I look forward to continued partnership with member institutions in our collective work to advance educational quality and student learning and achievement. As always, please reach out if there is a way I can serve you.

Yours,  
Mac Powell

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## Commission Announcements and Updates

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### Recent Commission Actions on Institutions

ACCJC held its biannual meeting June 5-6, 2024. 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...](#)

### Notice of June 2024 ACCJC Policy Revisions and Edits

At its meeting June 5-6, 2024, no policies were proposed as a First Reading. The complete notice of Commission adoption of policy revisions and edits is available on the ACCJC website. [June 2024 Policy Revisions and Edits...](#)

### ACCJC Board Votes to Maintain 2025-2026 Membership Dues - No Increase

At its meeting held June 5, 2024, the ACCJC Board of Directors took unanimous action in support of maintaining Annual Membership Dues for 2025 – 2026 at the 2024 – 2025 level. This will be the sixth 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. [2025-2026 Dues and Fees Information...](#)

### Spring 2024 Election – ACCJC Welcomes Three New Commissioners!

The ACCJC Nominating Committee recently announced the results of the 2024 Commissioner Election. The Commission and ACCJC staff would like to congratulate and welcome Ravinder Dayal, Caleb Fowler Jr., and Karen Wong as new members. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2024 nomination and election process! [2024 Election Results.](#)



### ACCJC Says Goodbye to Two Long-Standing Commissioners



As we welcome our newest Commissioners to ACCJC, we also say goodbye to two departing Commissioners. Randy Beach and Cynthia Napoli-Abella Reiss have both 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.

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

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### ACCJC 2030 Strategic Plan

In the fall of 2023, ACCJC began developing its 2030 Strategic Plan, recognizing the need for the organization's continued evolution to support member institutions and respond to the public's ongoing demand for transparency, quality, and equitable outcomes. The ACCJC Commission and staff obtained feedback from hundreds of partners through virtual surveys and town halls, all of them reinforcing the critical importance of ACCJC's values: integrity, quality assurance, institutional improvement, peer review, student learning & achievement, and collegiality – as well as its commitment to the achievement of equitable student outcomes. Approved by the Commission at its final read during the June 2024 meeting, the resulting *2030 Strategic Plan* recognizes the significant challenges our institutions face with anticipated demographic changes, funding cuts, and the uncertainty of a rapidly changing world. The *Plan* will guide ACCJC in its work to support and advocate for member institutions as they carry out their critical work on behalf of the millions of students being served. [The full ACCJC 2030 Strategic Plan is available on the ACCJC website...](#)

### In Support of the 2030 Strategic Plan, ACCJC Launches Three Initiatives

In support of the *2030 Strategic Plan*, Commission Staff developed a 2024-25 operational plan to guide its work. We are pleased to announce ACCJC will be launching three strategic initiatives this summer. Each initiative will feature a call to action and multiple opportunities for engagement with the field. Complete project plans are available on the ACCJC website and linked below.

#### ***Annual Report Monitoring:***

To fulfill ACCJC's regulatory requirements and facilitate the ongoing support and annual monitoring of its institutions, ACCJC is creating an Institutional Success Advisory Team. This Team will evaluate annual reporting criteria, analyze all members' results, and identify and support underperforming institutions according to the finalized scoring criteria. The current Annual Report will be revised to capture institutional data more consistently and create an opportunity for institutions to reflect and report on their disaggregated student success data and stories as part of the annual reporting process.

The Team will also collaborate on developing a Rubric for Effective Institutional Outcome Transparency, whereby the institution will provide a self-score during the annual review process. The rubric will provide institutions with the opportunity to self-assess outcome data transparency, with proposed categories on data type, location, provision of context, recency, and storytelling. The rubric will also incorporate Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) guidelines for data transparency.

*To learn more and register your interest in collaborating on the Annual Report Monitoring Initiative (those wishing to participate over the summer should submit their interest by July 12), please visit: <https://accjc.org/strategic-plan-2030-initiative-1/>.*

#### ***Regular and Substantive Interaction in Distance Education:***

ACCJC has seen a significant increase in distance education delivery by its members, with 66% of students across our membership taking courses in the distance education modality. Federal regulations require a high level of scrutiny of online delivery to maintain Title IV eligibility, and the significant institutional consequences for noncompliance that can occur through Department of Education regulatory audits and actions have prompted questions from member institutions. ACCJC recognizes that identifying and facilitating quality instruction in distance education,

promoting equitable student outcomes in the modality, increasing clarity of ACCJC and federal expectations for institutions undergoing evaluation, and providing a consistent and objective approach for peer reviewers evaluating institutions are essential to ACCJC’s ongoing federal recognition and value as an accreditor.

This summer, ACCJC will bring together a team from its membership to develop a rubric to assist institutions and peer review teams with the required validation of regular and substantive interaction per ACCJC’s *Policy on Distance and Correspondence Education*. Peer review teams and the Commission will utilize this rubric to ensure consistent and objective review of distance education. ACCJC will develop and deploy additional training materials to support its use and plans to pilot the distance education rubric in fall 2024.

*To learn more and register your interest in collaborating on the Distance Education Rubric Initiative (those wishing to participate over the summer should submit their interest by July 12), please visit: <https://accjc.org/strategic-plan-2030-initiative-2/>.*

### **Community Resource Library:**

In collaboration with our members, ACCJC is developing a Community Resource Library to improve student success and outcomes and promote equitable student attainment. The project seeks to create a versatile and user-friendly resource library that will empower our membership to utilize best practices from across the globe. By integrating evidence-based research, best practices, and real-world applications, the library aims to provide actionable insights and strategies that drive meaningful change.

ACCJC will form a Community Resource Library Team to develop the library, solicit and review resources from the field, and curate a collection of effective tools and resources.

*To learn more and register your interest in collaborating on the Community Resource Library Initiative (those wishing to participate over the summer should submit their interest by July 12), please visit: <https://accjc.org/strategic-plan-2030-initiative-3/>.*

### **Peer Review Team Report and Commission Action Trends – May 2024 Analysis**

Ahead of its June 2024 Commission Meeting, ACCJC Staff completed an analysis of peer review team reports and Commission action trends from January 2017 to January 2024 in order to assess the effects of its Portfolio and Formative/Summative Models and to identify trends and commonly cited Standards in peer review team reports and Commission actions during comprehensive reviews.

ACCJC notes a significant reduction in Compliance Requirements and Follow-Up Visits following the introduction of the Portfolio Model in 2017 and Formative/Summative Model in 2019 and has identified common themes and trends in core inquiries, compliance requirements, improvement recommendations, and commendations. ACCJC is sharing the results of this analysis with members of the field to demonstrate trends that could highlight promising practices and opportunities for improvement. As an agency, ACCJC intends to utilize this information to develop new tools and resources for the comprehensive peer review process and to better support our institutions.

[The full report is available here.](#)

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

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### ACCJC Makes Progress on Technology and Data Collection Initiatives

ACCJC Staff continue to work on the development and implementation of a **grant-funded Accreditation Platform and database**, thanks to the College Futures Foundation. The ACCJC database has been fully migrated and staff are beginning to use it to conduct their day-to-day work. We were pleased to launch our Peer Reviewer Portal this spring and utilize the Platform to send invitations and build peer review teams for fall 2024. ACCJC is on track to launch the Institutional Portal and the Commissioner Portal this fall and hopes to begin using the Platform in support of most accreditation activities in early 2025. Commission staff will develop training materials and communicate updates to ensure a smooth transition. We look forward to the efficiencies the Platform will bring to our collective work together. Stay tuned!

ACCJC continues its **related data project** and is fine tuning its equity-focused data dashboards that focus our efforts on closing institutional equity gaps. The data are used to evaluate institutions in ongoing monitoring and as foundational elements of ACCJC's work with institutions as they develop self-evaluation reports and campus-wide activities designed to achieve equitable student success. Commission staff are developing new data-related resources, have launched the [Annual Report Monitoring Initiative](#) focused on data, and have plans to host a webinar series focused on how institutions are using data to improve outcomes for their students and sharing these success stories on their websites.

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## Call to Action

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### Please Update Institutional Websites: ACCJC Logo Use and Style Guide

At its January 2024 Board Meeting, the Commission took action to amend the *ACCJC Bylaws* so that we may be formally recognized as an organization doing business as the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The current legal name of the nonprofit corporation, as stated in its Articles of Incorporation, will remain the same.

The [updated Bylaws](#) and the related [Policy on Representation of Accredited Status](#) are available on the ACCJC website. As such, we ask that ACCJC member institutions **update their statements of accredited status** in publications and on college websites with the new name and [updated logo](#).

Additionally, Commission Staff have developed an [ACCJC Logo Use and Style Guide](#) to assist with your updates.

*Background:* ACCJC's current legal name is "Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges." This name, adopted when ACCJC separated from WASC and incorporated independently in November of 2012, has been a source of confusion over the years with federal policy makers and the public.

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## Member Focus

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### Moorpark College Named One of Ten Finalists for the 2025 Aspen Prize

This month, the Aspen Institute named [Moorpark College](#) one of its ten finalists for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding achievement in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, access, and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. Moorpark College is proud to be recognized for their efforts and data showing strong, improving, and equitable student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, and transfer.

For the Aspen Institute's official announcement and more information about the prize, please visit their website at: <https://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.

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## ***ACCJC On The Move***

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### 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 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 137 institutions ACCJC serves, and the promising impactful practices changing lives inside and outside the classroom. Our most recent articles feature [College of the Desert](#), [MiraCosta College](#), [Carrington College](#), and [Woodland Community 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!

\**ACCJC On The Move* took a brief hiatus last month to focus on the Partners in Excellence Conference. We look forward to sharing articles of Dr. Powell's recent visits and are developing a full lineup of visits and features for the fall 2024 semester.

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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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