

January 27, 2022

Ms. Susan Lamb  
President  
Diablo Valley College  
321 Golf Club Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Ms. Lamb:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 12-14, 2022, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Diablo Valley College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on November 2-3, 2021. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the fall 2020 comprehensive visit and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's February 1, 2021, Action Letter.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for the remainder of the cycle**. The Commission finds that Diablo Valley College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standards III.A.5, IV.C.3, IV.C.7, IV.C.11, and IV.C.12. The Commission requires the College to disseminate the Follow-Up Report, the Team Report, and this letter within the institution, including by posting them on the College's website. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on October 15, 2024. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2027 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2027.

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out plans/agreements to the Commission should review *Guidelines for Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/guides-and-manuals/>.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Diablo Valley College undertook to respond to these requirements. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve well the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact Dr. Cindy Miles or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Cindy Miles, Ph.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Dr. Bryan Reece, Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District  
Ms. Lindsay Kong, Accreditation Liaison Officer

February 1, 2021

Ms. Susan Lamb  
President  
Diablo Valley College  
321 Golf Club Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Ms. Lamb:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 13-15, 2021, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Diablo Valley College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College October 5-8, 2020.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Issue Warning** and **require a Follow-Up Report due no later than October 1, 2021**, followed by a visit from a peer review team. The institution remains accredited during the warning period.

#### Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Diablo Valley College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

**Standards I.B.5, II.A.2, II.C.1 (College Commendation 1):** The Commission commends the College for its use of data to assess the accomplishment of its mission through its program review process in order to continuously improve courses, programs, and student services.

#### Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the requirements below. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

**Standard III.A.5 (District Requirement 1):** In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires that the District develop a process by which all classified employees are regularly and systematically evaluated.

**Standard IV.C.3 (District Requirement 2):** In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires the Governing Board should follow its Board policy related to the Chancellor's evaluation process.

**Standard IV.C.7 (District Requirement 3):** In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires the Governing Board act consistently with its adopted policies and bylaws, and regularly assesses these policies and bylaws.

**Standard IV.C.11 (District Requirement 4):** In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires the Governing Board uphold and adhere to their adopted code of ethics policy-BP 1010.

**Standard IV.C.12 (District Requirement 5):** In order to meet the standard, the Commission requires the Governing Board delegate full responsibility and authority to the Chancellor to implement and administer board policies without board interference and hold the Chancellor accountable for the operation of the District and colleges.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years<sup>1</sup>.

#### Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None

#### Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to come into compliance. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Diablo Valley College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve well the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact Dr. Stephanie Droker or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Droker in black ink.

Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.

Handwritten signature of Sonya Christian in black ink.

Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Dr. Bryan Reece, Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District  
Dr. Becky Opsata, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure