

June 29, 2020

Ms. Eileen Cichocki, Interim Superintendent/President  
Mendocino College  
1000 Hensley Creek Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Ms. Cichocki:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 10-12, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Mendocino College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College February 24-27, 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 **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

#### Commendations

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

**Standard I.A.3, II.C.4 (Commendation 1):** The Commission commends the College for aligning its programs and services with its mission, which has guided the development of exemplary programs to support Native American populations contributing to the social and cultural dimensions of the educational experience of its students.

#### Compliance Requirements

None.

#### Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1 and 2 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm

Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

### Next Steps

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

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on March 15, 2024. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2027.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Mendocino College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve 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. Stephanie Droker or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.  
ACCJC President



Ian Walton, Ph.D.  
ACCJC Chair

cc: Ms. Debra Polak, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure

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