

January 26, 2023

Dr. Donald G. Wallace  
Superintendent/President  
Palo Verde College  
One College Drive  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear Dr. Wallace:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-12, 2023, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Palo Verde College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on November 7, 2022. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's January 27, 2022, 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 Palo Verde College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standards I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.4, and II.A.3. The Commission requires that you disseminate the Follow-Up Report, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. 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 March 15, 2024. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2026 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2027.

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

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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/>.

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

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.  
President



Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.  
Chair

cc: Mr. William Smith, Accreditation Liaison Officer

January 27, 2022

Dr. Donald Wallace  
Superintendent/President  
Palo Verde College  
One College Drive  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear Dr. Wallace:

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 Palo Verde College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on October 25-26, 2021. The Commission appreciated your spoken remarks, as well as those of Mr. William Smith, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Student Services/ALO. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the spring 2020 comprehensive visit and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's June 29, 2020, Action Letter.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Issue Warning**. The Commission found that the College has addressed the following compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets:

*Policy on Student and Public Complaints Against Institutions (Requirement 1)*  
*Policy on Distance Education and on Correspondence Education (Requirement 2)*  
Standards I.B.5, II.A.2, and II.C.1 (Requirement 5)

The Commission found **continued non-compliance** with Standards I.B.2, I.B.4, and II.A.3 (Requirement 3) and Standard I.B.3 (Requirement 4). The College is **required to submit a Follow-Up Report<sup>1</sup> to address the remaining deficiencies by October 1, 2022**, which will be followed by a visit from a peer review team. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period.

In accordance with federal regulations and the *Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions*, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within three years of first receiving notification of noncompliance, by June 2023. If the institution cannot document that it has come into compliance within the designated period, the Commission will take adverse action.

The Commission looks forward to receiving the College's report demonstrating that it has addressed the deficiencies, and supports your institution's efforts to come into compliance.

The Commission requires the College to disseminate this Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Peer Review Team Report, and this letter within the institution, including by posting them on the College's website. A final copy of the Follow-Up Peer Review Team Report is attached.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Palo Verde College has undertaken as it responds to these requirements. These efforts confirm that peer review can 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. Cindy Miles or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Cindy Miles, Ph.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Mr. William Smith, Accreditation Liaison Officer

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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/>.

June 29, 2020

Dr. Donald Wallace, Superintendent/President  
Palo Verde College  
One College Drive  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear Dr. Wallace:

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 Palo Verde 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 March 2-5, 2020. The Commission considered the written response to the Team Report that you submitted prior to the Commission meeting, your spoken testimony, and that of Dr. Scott Bauer, Accreditation Liaison Officer. The Commission found these additional perspectives to be helpful.

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 and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than October 1, 2021, followed by a visit from a peer review team.**

#### Commendations

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

**Standard I.A.3 (Commendation 1):** The Commission commends the institution for fulfilling its mission by innovatively aligning its education programs and support services to meet the needs of its distinctive student population.

#### 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.

#### **ACCJC Policy on Student and Public Complaints Against Institutions**

**(Requirement 1):** In order to meet the Commission's policy, the Commission requires

the institution widely communicate its formal student grievance process so that all students are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

**ACCJC Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education**

**(Requirement 2):** In order to meet the Commission’s policy, the Commission requires the institution establish a policy defining regular and substantive instructor-initiated contact with students for Distance Education courses. The college must provide professional development opportunities for faculty teaching online to ensure Distance Education courses include regular and substantive instructor-student interaction.

**Standard I.B.2, I.B.4, II.A.3 (Requirement 3):** In order to meet the Standards, the Commission requires the institution regularly assess student learning outcomes for course, program and institutional levels and use assessment data to support student learning and achievement.

**Standard I.B.3 (Requirement 4):** In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires the institution consistently use institution-set standard data to address student achievement gaps.

**Standard I.B.5, II.A.2, II.C.1 (Requirement 5):** In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires the institution assess accomplishment of its mission through program review by consistently and systematically evaluating programs and services.

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 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 or to come into compliance. 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.

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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/>.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Palo Verde 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,

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Droker in black ink.

Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.  
ACCJC President

Handwritten signature of Ian Walton in black ink.

Ian Walton, Ph.D.  
ACCJC Chair

cc: Dr. Scott Bauer, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure