

January 26, 2023

Dr. Claudia Habib  
President  
Porterville College  
100 East College Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Dr. Habib:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-12, 2023, reviewed the Midterm Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Porterville College. The purpose of the review was to determine the degree to which the institution has made progress in implementing its plans and improving outcomes related to student achievement. After consideration of the Report, the Commission has determined that the institution's progress is appropriate and has accepted the Report. The Commission requires that you disseminate the Midterm 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.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to acknowledge the College's commitment to improvement as it continues its efforts in the best interests of its students. We look forward to working with the College as it prepares for its next comprehensive review, which will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2025 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2025.

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.  
President



Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.  
Chair

cc: Dr. Sonya Christian, Chancellor, Kern Community College District  
Dr. Thad Russell, Accreditation Liaison Officer

January 27, 2020

Dr. Claudia Habib, President  
Porterville College  
100 E College Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Dr. Habib:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 15-17, 2020, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Porterville College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution via Zoom on September 24, 2019. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has appropriately responded to the issues as identified by the peer review team at the time of the last visit and as expressed in the Commission's Action Letter of January 25, 2019 and whether the College has demonstrated compliance with the related Standards.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for the remainder of the cycle**. The Commission finds that Porterville College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standards II.A.2 and Commission Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education. The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on October 17, 2022. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the fall term of 2025.

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.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Porterville College undertook to respond to these requirements. These efforts confirm that peer review can well 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, 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/>.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
President

RW/tl

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Burke, Chancellor, Kern Community College District  
Ms. Primavera Arvizu, Accreditation Liaison Officer

January 25, 2019

Mr. William Henry, Interim President  
Porterville College  
100 East College Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Interim President Henry:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Porterville College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College October 1 - 4, 2018.

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 March 2, 2020**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

#### Commendations

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

**Commendation 1:** The team commends the College for its commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in its governance processes. Of special note is the pervasive culture of the college to function as a family and team with a common purpose. It embraces an open problem-solving process that encourages supported risk-taking, lively debate and innovative solutions with the broadly held belief and value of student success first. (I.A.1; IV.A.1)

**Commendation 2:** The team commends the College for its commitment to student success by its investment in the Learning Resource Center which provides extraordinary services through the Peer Assisted Study Session (PASS) program of student expert tutoring; peer to peer mentoring and expanded student tutoring. (II.B.1)

**Commendation 3:** The team commends the College for investing in the professional development of its workforce. By incentivizing additional professional coursework, the College has made clear its commitment to the educational advancement of its workforce by rewarding employees for completing approved professional development activities. (III.A.14)

**Commendation 4:** The team commends the College for its exemplary fiscal stability achieved through local budget processes. With a highly visible process, the College Budget Committee provides for active employee engagement throughout budget development and

presents detailed information based upon thorough technical analysis. (III.D.1, III.D.3, III.D.5)

**District Commendation 1:** The teams commend the District for establishing and maintaining a culture of fiscal stability evidenced by impeccable audit reports, funds earmarked towards known liabilities, clearly laid out plans to address potential future uncertainties, and a high degree of financial transparency backed up by Board policy. In the establishment of the Districtwide Budget Committee, the District has demonstrated its continued commitment to collaborative decision-making and continuous improvement. (III.D.1, III.D.9)

#### Compliance Requirements

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

**Standard II.A.2, Commission Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education (College Recommendation 2):** In order to meet the Standard and Commission Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education, the team recommends the college review and revise its existing processes to ensure that faculty teaching online courses consistently provide regular and substantive interaction with students.

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>.

#### Modifications to Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission modified the team's recommendation(s) as follows:

**Recommendation 2** is changed from an improvement recommendation to a compliance requirement. The Commission also determined that the wording of the recommendation should be revised as follows:

**Original Recommendation 2 (Improvement):** In order to increase institutional effectiveness and strengthen its alignment with the standard, the team recommends more diligent documentation of substantive and regular contact for students enrolled in its Distance Education courses. (II.A.2)

**Revised Recommendation 2 (Compliance):** In order to meet the Standard and Commission Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education, the team recommends the college review and revise its existing processes to ensure that faculty teaching online courses consistently provide regular and substantive interaction with students.

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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/>.



Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness. This recommendation does 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 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.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Porterville 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 me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
President

RW/tl

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Burke, Chancellor  
Mr. Sam Aunai, Accreditation Liaison Officer