

January 16, 2024

Dr. Marilyn Flores
Superintendent/President
Rio Hondo College
3600 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

Dear Dr. Flores:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting January 10 - 11, 2024, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Rio Hondo 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, 2023. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the March 14 - 17, 2022 comprehensive visit and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's June 14, 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 Rio Hondo College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standard 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 Report¹ due on March 15, 2026. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2028 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2029.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out plans/agreements to the Commission should review the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report templates available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Rio Hondo 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.

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: Dr. Caroline Durdella, Accreditation Liaison Officer

June 14, 2022

Ms. Teresa Dreyfuss
Acting Superintendent/President
Rio Hondo College
3600 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601-1699

Dear Ms. Dreyfuss:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 1-3, 2022, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Rio Hondo 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 March 14-17, 2022.

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 18 months and require a Follow-Up Report¹, due no later than October 1, 2023**, followed by a visit from a peer review team.

Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices for which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Rio Hondo College in the following areas.

Standards II.A.1, II.A.6, II.A.13, II.A.14, II.C.6 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the college for its model Bachelor of Science in automotive technology program that aligns with the college's mission and, in particular, the application and admission processes, articulation support, and clearly communicated course sequencing.

¹ 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/>.

Standard II.C.5 (Commendation 2): The Commission commends the college for its efforts in providing students with timely, useful, and accurate information about relevant academic requirements, and its commitment to ensuring all first-time students are provided with an educational plan, advising, and orientation resources that ensure their success.

Compliance Requirements

The Commission 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 II.A.3 (College Requirement 1): In order to meet the Standard, the Commission requires the college include student learning outcomes on their officially approved course outlines and ensure students receive, in every class, a syllabus that lists these outcomes.

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, by June 2025. If the institution cannot document that it has come into compliance within the designated period, the Commission will take adverse action.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Peer Review Team Report noted Recommendation 2 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 this recommendation and the advice contained in the Peer Review Team Report. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the improvement recommendation.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. 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 improve or 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 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 Rio Hondo College undertook to prepare for this review. 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: Dr. Caroline Durdella, Accreditation Liaison Officer