June 23, 2017

Dr. Pamela Luster President
San Diego Mesa College
7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear President Luster:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 7-9, 2017, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary documents submitted by San Diego Mesa College, and the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the evaluation team that visited March 13-16, 2017. College leadership, including the president of the governing board and the College president, certified the College's report, which was submitted in application for reaffirmation of accreditation. The purpose of the Commission's review was to determine whether the College continues to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies (hereafter called Standards).

After considering the material noted above, the Commission acted to reaffirm accreditation for seven years. Reaffirmation indicates that the Commission has determined that the institution is in compliance with Standards. The next report due from the College will be the Midterm Report in spring 2021.¹

Improving Institutional Effectiveness
The Team Report noted Recommendations 1 through 6 and District Recommendations 1 through 3 for improving institutional effectiveness (improvement recommendations). These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice but highlight areas of practice for which College attention may be needed. Consistent with its policy to foster continuous improvement through the peer-review process, the Commission expects institutions to consider the advice for improvement offered. In the Midterm Report, the College will include any actions taken in response to the evaluation team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps
The Team Report provides details of the team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet the standards.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission found on the ACCJC website at: http://accjc.org/college-reports-to-accjc/.
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The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the evaluation team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the College to come into compliance (or to improve).

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the fourth year after each comprehensive evaluation. San Diego Mesa College will submit the Midterm Report by March 15, 2021. The Midterm Report describes resolution of any team recommendations made for improvement, includes a summary of progress on College-identified plans for improvement as expressed in the ISER, and forecasts where the College will be at the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

The Commission requires the College give the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to those who were signatories of the ISER and to make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by posting them on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution’s home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the collaborative work that San Diego Mesa College undertook to prepare for institutional self-evaluation, and to support the work of the external evaluation team. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Accreditation and peer review are most effective when the College and the ACCJC work together to focus on student outcomes and continuous quality improvement in higher education.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We would be glad to help you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
Interim President

RW/tl

Cc: Dr. Constance Carroll, Chancellor, San Diego CCD