

June 15, 2023

Dr. Mark Sanchez
Superintendent/President
Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 7-8, 2023, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Southwestern College. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the fall 2021 comprehensive visit 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 Southwestern College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standard I.B.5. The Commission requires that you disseminate the Follow-Up 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on October 15, 2025. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2028 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2028.

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/>.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Southwestern 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: Ms. Isabelle Saber, Accreditation Liaison Officer

January 27, 2022

Dr. Mark Sanchez
Superintendent/President
Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Dr. Sanchez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 12-14, 2022, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Southwestern 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 on October 12, 2021.

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 March 1, 2023.**

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 I.B.5 (College Requirement 1): In order to meet the standards, the Commission requires the College incorporate analysis of disaggregated data into program review and evaluation of goals and objectives, student learning outcomes, and student achievement including disaggregation by program type, mode of delivery, and location.

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/>.

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

Modifications to Team Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission deleted citations to Standards II.A.7, II.B.1, and II.C.1 from College Requirement 1.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None.

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 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 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, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Southwestern College undertook to prepare for this review. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve well 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. Minou Spradley, Accreditation Liaison Officer