

June 28, 2021

Ms. Brenda Thames
President
West Hills College Coalinga
300 Cherry Lane
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear Ms. Thames:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9-11, 2021, reviewed the Midterm Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by West Hills College Coalinga. 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.

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 fall term of 2023 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2024.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Dr. Sam Aunai, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Stuart Van Horn, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

January 25, 2019

Ms. Brenda Thames, President
West Hills College Coalinga
300 Cherry Lane
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear President Thames:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by West Hills College Coalinga. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on November 8, 2018. 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 June 23, 2017, and whether the College has demonstrated compliance with the related Standards.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Remove Warning, find compliance, and reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the cycle**. The Commission finds that West Hills College Coalinga has addressed the compliance requirements College Recommendations 4, 9, 10, 12, and 14 and District Recommendation 2; corrected deficiencies; and meets Standards I.B.1, I.B.3, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.6, II.A.11, II.A.16, III.A.5, IV.A.7, and IV.C.7. The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2021. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2024.

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 West Hills College Coalinga 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.

¹ 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 blue ink that reads "Richard Winn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. Stuart Van Horn, Chancellor
Mr. Francisco Banuelos, Accreditation Liaison Officer

June 23, 2017

Ms. Brenda Thames
President
West Hills College Coalinga
300 Cherry Lane
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear President Thames:

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 West Hills College Coalinga, and the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the evaluation team that visited March 6-9, 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 **delay reaffirmation of accreditation, issue a Warning, and require a Follow-Up Report** on the issues identified in the College team's findings of non-compliance. West Hills College Coalinga is required to submit its Follow-Up report by **October 1, 2018**.¹ The report should demonstrate that the College has resolved all deficiencies and meets Standards. The Report will be followed with a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission finds the College out of compliance with Standards I.B.3 and II.A.1 (Recommendation 4); I.B.1, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.6, II.A.11, and II.A.16 (Recommendation 9), II.A.3 (Recommendation 10); III.A.5 (Recommendation 12); IV.A.7 (Recommendation 14); and IV.C.7 (District Recommendation 2).

College Recommendation 4 (Compliance) In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College publish institution-set standards for student achievement, appropriate to its mission, assesses how well it is achieving them in pursuit of continuous improvement, and has a sustained and collegial dialogue about this information. (I.B.3, II.A.1)

College Recommendation 9 (Compliance) In order to meet Standards, the team recommends that the College maintain an on-going, sustainable process of assessing student learning outcomes at the course, program, certificate, and degree levels; promote widespread dialogue on

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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June 23, 2017

the results of the assessments; and use assessment results to improve programs and institutional processes including resource allocations. (II.A.3, II.A.11) Additionally, the team recommends that the College:

- include student learning as one component in assessing institutional effectiveness; (I.B.1)
- fully and meaningfully assess all courses, certificate and degree programs using student learning outcomes assessment to improve student learning and ensure that faculty and staff fully engage in the student learning outcomes assessment process; (II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.11, II.A.16)
- develop a streamlined process and accountability measures for student learning outcomes assessment. (II.A.1, II.A.3, II.A.6, II.A.11)

College Recommendation 10 (Compliance) In order to meet Standards, the team recommends that the College ensure that all course syllabi include the approved student learning outcomes and that the officially approved course outlines contain student learning outcomes. (II.A.3)

College Recommendation 12 (Compliance) In order to meet Standards, the team recommends that all personnel are systematically evaluated at stated intervals in accordance with the collective bargaining agreements and board policies. (III.A.5)

College Recommendation 14 (Compliance) In order to meet the Standards, the team recommends that the College, as it notes in its QFE, evaluate the governance and decision making procedures and processes, including the *Participatory Governance and Integrated Planning Manual 2014*, to assure their effectiveness. (IV.A.7)

District Recommendation 2 (Compliance) In order to increase effectiveness, the team recommends that the Board establish a long-term plan for the systematic review and revision of all policies and establish a formal process for documenting the review of policies in which no revisions are made. (IV.C.7)

Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and District Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness (improvement recommendations). The Commission acted to change Recommendations 3 and 11 to recommendations to increase institutional effectiveness. 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.

Ms. Brenda Thames
West Hills College Coalinga
June 23, 2017

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the team's findings with regard to the College's work to meet the standards. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Team 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. West Hills College Coalinga 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.

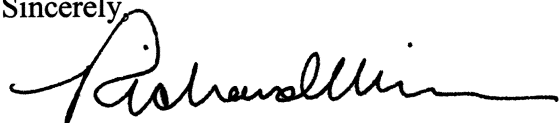
A **final copy** of the Team Report is attached. Commission changes to the Report are noted on a separate page for inclusion with the Team Report. The College may now duplicate and post copies of the enclosed Team Report with this added page.

The Commission requires that 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 West Hills College Coalinga 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,



Richard Winn, Ed.D.
Interim President

RW/tl

Cc: Dr. Frank Gornick, Chancellor, West Hills Community College District

Attachment