



**ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES**  
*Western Association of Schools and Colleges*

Barbara A. Beno, President  
Steven M. Kinsella, Chair

February 5, 2016

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

Dear President Dreyfuss:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 6-8, 2016, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and evidentiary materials submitted by Rio Hondo College, and the report of the evaluation team that visited on November 4-5, 2015. The College and District Leadership certified the Follow-Up Report, including the president of the board of trustees. The purpose of the Commission's review was to determine whether the college has resolved deficiencies and meets Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies, (hereafter call standards).

After considering the written material noted above, the Commission finds that Rio Hondo College has not addressed Recommendation 4, partially addressed Recommendations 1, 3, and 7, and fully addressed Recommendation 5 from the fall 2014 comprehensive evaluation.

The Commission took action to require Rio Hondo College to submit a **Follow-Up Report by October 15, 2016** (the end of the College's two-year rule period). The Commission found that the college does not yet meet Standards I.B, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.6.b , or III.A.1.c from Recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 7. The Report must demonstrate that these Standards are fully met. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendation 1**

In order to meet Standards, and to meet USDE regulations, the team recommends that the College set standards of satisfactory performance for student achievement, and evaluate itself against those standards, at the programmatic level (not just at the institutional level). (I.B, USDE Regulation 602.17 (f))

**Recommendation 3**

In order to meet Standards and comply with USDE regulations, the team recommends that the College develop a process to ensure faculty initiate regular and substantive interaction with students in Distance Education courses. (Standards II.A.1; II.A.2; USDE Regulation 602.17(g)) It should be noted that the deficiencies related to USDE Regulations 602.17(f) in Recommendation 1 and 602.17(g) in Recommendation 3 have been resolved.

Ms. Teresa Dreyfuss  
Rio Hondo College  
February 5, 2016

**Recommendation 4**

In order to meet Standards, the team recommends that the College develop procedures that outline how students will complete a program of study (other than CTE) when the program is discontinued. (II.A.6.b)

**Recommendation 7**

In order to meet Standards, the team recommends all evaluations for faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated student learning outcomes have, as a component of their evaluation, effectiveness in producing those learning outcomes. (III.A.1.c)

The Commission requires that you give the Follow-Up Report, the External Evaluation Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your Follow-Up Report. This group should include campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that these documents be made available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing a copy on the college website.

Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

The Commission encourages the College's continued work 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 encourage continuous quality improvement in higher education. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We'd be glad to help you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

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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 Preparation of Reports to the Commission* found on the ACCJC website at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).