

## ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

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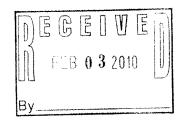
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Dr. Ed Gould Superintendent/President Imperial Valley College P. O. Box 158 Imperial, CA 92251

Dear President Gould:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 6-8, 2010, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Imperial Valley College. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were resolved by the institution. The Commission took action to accept the report.

The Commission also acted to **continue Warning** and require that Imperial Valley College undergo a visit by Commission representatives to coincide with the submission of the Midterm Report due by **March 15, 2010**.

A Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's eligibility criteria, standards of accreditation, or policy to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet accreditation standards. The Warning is issued for Recommendations 1, 5 and 6 which were first noted by the 2007 evaluation team. The accredited status of the institution continues during the Warning period.

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. The Recommendations noted below identified as deficiencies were noted by the year 2007 evaluation team. The Commission has extended Imperial Valley College's (IVC) time to correct these deficiencies to March 2010 pending verification by the visiting team.

The team that visits Imperial Valley College following the Midterm Report of March 15, 2010 will ascertain whether or not the institution demonstrated that it has resolved the recommendations noted below from the fall 2007 comprehensive evaluation team:

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**Recommendation 1:** The team recommends the college take action to incorporate program review and comprehensive master planning (educational, facilities, technology, & resource plans) with systematic planning and budgeting processes to effectively align college resources with priority college goals. (I.B.3, II.A.2.a, II.B.4. II.C.2, III.C.2, III.D.1, III.D.1.a, IV.A, IV.A.6.)

Recommendation 2: The team recommends that college develop student learning outcomes by describing how student learning outcomes will be extended throughout the institution, developing a specific timeline for development that includes establishment of authentic assessment strategies for assessing student learning outcomes in courses, programs, and degrees, describing how resource allocation will be tied to student learning outcomes, and developing a plan for how faculty and staff will become fully engaged in student learning outcomes development. The institution must also demonstrate its effectiveness by providing evidence of achievement in student learning outcomes and evidence of institutional and program performance. (II.A, IVA, IB, II.B.4, I.B.5, II.C, III.A.1.c)

With regard to Recommendation 2 above, the Commission expects IVC be at the Proficiency Level on the Commission's Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness – Part III: Student Learning Outcomes by 2012. The Midterm Report of March 2010 should demonstrate that the College is currently at the Development Level.

**Recommendation 3:** The team recommends that college publications, including the general college catalog, be reviewed to ensure that information important to students is readily available. The college's Sexual Harassment Policy needs to be explicitly noted, the policy for accepting transfer credit and the description of the availability of financial aid both need to be located so as to be more visible to current and prospective students. (II.B.2.a; II.B.2.c)

**Recommendation 4:** The team recommends that the college identify and assess Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Outcomes for all Student Services Areas to include categorically funded state and federal programs. (II.B.4)

With regard to Recommendation 4 above, the Commission expects IVC be at the Proficiency Level on the Commission's Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness – Part III: Student Learning Outcomes by 2012. The Midterm Report of March 2010 should demonstrate that the College is currently at the Development Level.

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**Recommendation 5:** The team recommends the college develop a process to assess, review and modify the Technology Plan as the educational needs and programs develop in order to support a college master plan. It is also recommended that the plan be aligned with college budgeting processes and staffing. (III.C.2)(III.C.1)(III.C.1.a)(III.C.1.a)(III.D.1.a)(II.B.3)

**Recommendation 6:** To enhance the effectiveness of the governance and decision-making processes, the team recommends that the college define in writing the roles of the committees and the decision making structures and processes; that the college develop a process to evaluate them and use the results of evaluation for improvement. (IV.A.2, IV.A.5)

The Follow-Up Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.

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President

BAB/tl

cc: Ms. Kathy Berry, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Imperial Community College District

Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S.D.E., San Francisco