



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 29, 2010

Dr. Brenda Davis  
President  
Norco Campus  
Riverside Community College District  
2001 Third Street  
Norco, CA 92860

Dear President Davis:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 6-8, 2010, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Norco Campus, Riverside Community College District Monday, October 19-Thursday, October 22, 2009. **The Commission acted to Grant Initial Accreditation.** The Commission extends its congratulations to Norco Campus and its staff and students, as well as to the Riverside Community College District. The Commission also acted to require that the college complete a Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2010**. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The Follow-Up Report should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations noted below:

**Recommendation 1:** In order to improve institutional effectiveness, the team recommends the campus establish and document a policy for the regular evaluation of its integrated institutional planning, budgeting and decision-making processes and that the results be widely disseminated and used to improved the processes. (I.B.3, 6, 7; III.B; IV.B.3.g)

**Recommendation 2:** In order to comply with the ACCJC Distance Education policy, for all programs, certificates or degrees where 50 percent or more of the requirements are delivered via distance learning and may be completed at the Norco campus, the team recommends submission of a substantive change proposal. (IIA.1b,d, II.B.1,II.B.2a, II.C.1, IIC.2.c)

**Recommendation 3:** In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the campus validate all departmental examinations for their effectiveness in measuring student learning and to ensure that they minimize test bias (II.A.2.g)

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**NORCO PRESIDENT**

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The Norco Campus should also inform the Commission when it has changed its name to "college."

In granting initial accreditation, the Commission finds that the institution has demonstrated that it operates at satisfactory levels of quality, integrity, and effectiveness consistent with its stated purposes and consistent with Commission standards. Accreditation will be continuous until formally withdrawn. Accredited institutions make reports to the Commission and are reviewed periodically.

An institution granted initial accreditation shall use the following statement in all appropriate publications. No other representations should be made.

(Name of institution) is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges 10 Commercial Blvd. Ste 204, Novato, CA 94949, 415-506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Norco Campus should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2012**. 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 Self Study Report, and forecasts where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation.

The Commission's policy is to review all institutions in a multi-college district at the same time. Therefore, in coming months, and in consultation with the Riverside CCD colleges, the Commission will take action to align the reporting cycles of all three institutions, and you will be informed of the new reporting cycle in writing.

The recommendations contained in the Evaluation Team Report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the report, but it is expected that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in its self study efforts be used to support the continuing improvement of Norco College.

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I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards I and II). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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.  
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Gregory W. Gray, Chancellor, Riverside Community College District  
Dr. Gaither Loewenstein, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Riverside Community College District  
Dr. Victoria P. Morrow, Team Chair