

June 28, 2019

Mr. Kevin Ballinger, President
Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Dear President Ballinger:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Orange Coast College. The Commission considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College February 25-28, 2019. The Commission also considered your spoken testimony and that of Sheri Sterner, Dean of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness, and Andrea Serban, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Technology, Coast Community College District. The Commission found these additional perspectives to be helpful.

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 and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Orange Coast College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

College Commendation 1: The close collaboration of faculty, administrators, and classified staff, in particular, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Program Review coordinators, and SLO coordinators, has resulted in exemplary planning processes, published data, and training that support College constituents in meeting the goals and mission of the College. (I.B.5, I.B.7, I.B.8)

College Commendation 2: The College's commitment to a comprehensive professional development program for all employee groups that is based on a robust needs assessment process and that is routinely evaluated is leading to a culture of continuous quality improvement. (III.A.14)

College Commendation 3: The College is commended for fostering an environment where innovation is encouraged and for establishing a culture of collaborative leadership throughout the entire ranks of the College, including managers, faculty, and staff. The result is a host of exemplary programs and services that reflect a sustained commitment to innovation and institutional improvement. (IV.A.1)

District Commendation 1: The chancellor is commended for his ability to promote a calming leadership style and to communicate effectively about College and District governance roles, resulting in a climate that emphasizes a strong sense of confidence about College and District operations. (IV.D.2, IV.D.4)

Compliance Requirements

None.

Modifications to Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission determined that **District Recommendation 1** be deleted from the team report.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and District Recommendation 2 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2023. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2026.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Orange Coast College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well 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 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 large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. John Weispenning, Chancellor, Coast Community College District
Ms. Sheri Sterner, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure

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/>.