



**ACCREDITING  
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for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2006

Dr. Richard Giese  
Superintendent-President  
Mt. San Jacinto College  
1499 North State Street  
San Jacinto, CA 92583

Dear President Giese:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 11-13, 2006, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Mt. San Jacinto College on Tuesday, October 18-Thursday, October 20, 2005. I am pleased to inform you that accreditation has been reaffirmed, with a requirement that the college complete a Progress Report. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission asks that a Progress Report be submitted by **October 15, 2007**. The Progress Report should focus on the recommendations and concerns as noted below:

**Recommendation 2 The Team recommends that the College develop policies, procedures and regular practices to ensure that:**

- 2.1 the various programs and services of the College engage in regular assessment of institutional effectiveness, including program review;**
- 2.2 the College set priorities for implementing plans for improvement that are based in analysis of research data;**
- 2.3 the College incorporate established priorities into the governance, decision making, and resource distribution processes;**
- 2.4 the College develop and employ a methodology for assessing overall institutional effectiveness and progress toward meeting goals expressed through plans for improvements; and that the College report regularly to internal constituencies and the Board on this progress. (Standards I.B., II A. 1. and 2., II.B.3.a., II B. 4., II.C.1.e and II.C.2; III.A.6., III.B.2.b., III.C.1. and 2., III.D.1. a, IVA.1, 2, 3, B.2.b, and the Preamble to the Standards.)**

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**Recommendation 3** The Team recommends that the College develop a comprehensive plan for the development of student learning outcomes at the program and course levels, for using data about student achievement of those outcomes to assess and improve the quality and effectiveness of programs and services, and to integrate the results of the process into decision making and planning at the College (Standards I-A, I-B.7; II-A.1, 2, 3)

**Recommendation 5** The Team recommends that the physical planning and technology planning processes be integrated with, and supportive of, the implementation of the District Master Plan, the strategic plan, program plans, and the budget development process, and that the processes provide for participation of stakeholders. (III-B.1; B.2; and C.2; D.2)

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 team report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the self study report be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

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 while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, it is expected that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Mt. San Jacinto College should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2008**. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The college also includes a summary of progress on college-identified concerns as expressed in the self study.



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The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in the self study report be taken into account in the continuing development of Mt. San Jacinto College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during **Fall 2011**.

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 One and Two). 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 programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Dona Alpert, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Mt. San Jacinto CCD  
Mr. Mike Rota, Team Chair  
Evaluation Team Members