



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 29, 2010

Dr. Judy Walters  
President  
Diablo Valley College  
321 Golf Club Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear President Walters:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 6-8, 2010, reviewed the Show Cause Report submitted by Diablo Valley College, and the report of the evaluation team which visited Tuesday, November 3- Wednesday, November 4, 2009, and the update provided by the institution at the Commission meeting. The purpose of this review was to assure that the deficiencies identified by the fall 2008 evaluation team, which led to the Commission's action to impose Show Cause in January 2009, were addressed. The Commission took action to accept the report, remove Show Cause, and impose Probation.

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 College should also submit a Focused Midterm Report by October 15, 2011 on issues described on page 3 of this letter.

Probation is issued when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Standards of Accreditation, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period. The Commission notes that Diablo Valley College has completed significant amounts of good work to address the deficiencies noted in the Commission's action letter of January 2009. The college is encouraged to continue its work to fully address all deficiencies.

The Follow-Up Report of October 15, 2010 should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations below:

**Recommendation 1:** The team recommends that the college clarify the decision making roles of constituent groups in the establishment of the campus organizational structure and implement a participatory process to advance the mission and goals of the institution. (Standards IA3, IB1, IB2, IVA1, IVA2a, IVA3, IVB2b)

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**Recommendation 2:** The team recommends that the college must develop and implement college wide planning that is tied to the Strategic Plan, mission, and resource allocation that:

- Integrates all aspects of planning, evaluation, resource allocation (Standards: IB3, IB4, IIA1, IIA2, IIB1, IIB4, IIC2, IIIA.6, IIIC2, IIID1a, IIID2g, IIID3, IVA5, IV2b);
- Is well defined, widely disseminated and discussed through reflective college wide dialogue (Standards: IB4, IB5, IIID4, IVA2a); and
- Includes faculty, staff, students and administration from the Diablo Valley College's main campus and its San Ramon Campus (Standards: IB4, IIA1, IIB1, IIC1c, IIIA, IIIB, IIC, IIID, IVA.1, IVA2, and IVA3.)

**Recommendation 3:** The team recommends that Diablo Valley College fully implement Recommendation 1 in the 2002, Accreditation Evaluation Report which states; "Implementation of a uniform process of program review which includes direct evidence of student learning and is used to inform and influence planning and resource allocation and leads to improvements in programs and services." (Standards: IB3, IB4, IIA1, IIA2, IIB1, IIB4, IIIA6, IIC2, IIID1a, IVA5, IV2b)

**Recommendation 7:** The team recommends that the college further improve communication to increase collaboration across organizational structures by promoting transparent decision making, honest dialogue and widespread dissemination of internal college documents. (Standards: IIIB2b, IIC, IIC2, IIID1a, IIID1d, IVA1, IVA2, IVA2b)

**District Recommendation 8:** In order to improve its resource allocation process, the district should expedite development of a financial allocation model including the following (Standards: IIC1, IIID1a, IIID2a, IIID3, IV3c):

- a. The model as a whole;
- b. Funding for adjunct faculty in a way that will support the district and college intentions to increase student enrollment;
- c. Technology funding.

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. Diablo Valley College should resolve the deficiencies noted by October 2010 or the Commission will be compelled to act.

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The Show Cause Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. 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 the Chancellor, 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. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

All colleges are required to submit a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Diablo Valley College should submit a Focused Midterm Report by **October 15, 2011**. 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 Focused Midterm Report should demonstrate that the College has resolved the recommendations noted below:

**Recommendation 9:** In order to meet the standard, the district should establish a written code of professional ethics which includes managers. (Standard: IIIA1d)

**Recommendation 10:** In order to meet the standard, the district should integrate student learning outcomes into the evaluation process for those who have a direct responsibility for student progress toward achieving student learning outcomes. (Standard: IIIA1c)

**Recommendation 11:** In order to meet standards, the district should develop a policy and implement procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the district's administrative organization, the delineation of responsibilities of the district and the colleges, and the governance and decision making structures. The results should be widely communicated and used as a basis for improvement. (Standards: IVA, IVA1, IVA2, IVA3, IVB3, IVB3a, IVB3b, IVB3e, IVB3f, IVB3g)

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my 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. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor, Contra Costa Community College District  
Dr. Ted Wieden, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Contra Costa Community College District  
Dr. Marie Smith, Team Chair  
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S.D.E., San Francisco