

January 25, 2019

Mr. Chris Vitelli, Superintendent/President
Merced College
3600 M Street
Merced, CA 95348

Dear Superintendent/President Vitelli:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Merced College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on November 27, 2018. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has appropriately responded to the issues as identified by the peer review team at the time of the last visit and as expressed in the Commission's Action Letter of June 23, 2017, and whether the College has demonstrated compliance with the related Standards.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Find compliance and reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the cycle**. The Commission finds that Merced College has addressed the compliance requirements Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9; corrected deficiencies; and meets Standards I.A.1, I.B.3, I.B.8, I.B.9, II.A.3, II.A.16, II.C.1, III.D.1, IV.B.5, IV.C.7, IV.C.10, IV.C.12, and the Commission Policy on Distance Education. The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2021. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2024.

The Commission requires the College to disseminate the Follow-Up Report, the Team Report, and this letter within the institution, including by posting them on the College's website.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Merced College undertook to respond to these requirements. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

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/>.

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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, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Ms. Kelly Fowler, Accreditation Liaison Officer