

June 12, 2024

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

Dear Dr. Vitelli:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting June 5-6, 2024, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Merced College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College February 13 - 14, 2024.

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

Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices for which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Merced College in the following areas.

Standard I.A.2, I.B.4, II.B.3 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for how it lives its mission and uses data in cross-disciplinary initiatives to support student learning and student achievement. The College has intentionally cultivated a capacity for data-informed decision-making via Student Success Teams which has resulted in exemplary projects like the Learning Resource Center.

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the 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 Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. 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, 2028. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2030 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2031.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Merced College undertook to prepare for this review. These efforts confirm that peer review can 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 Dr. Mac Powell or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President



Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.
Chair

Cc: Dr. Dee Sigismond, Accreditation Liaison Officer

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report template available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.