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for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2008

Ms. Judith Valles  
President  
Los Angeles Mission College  
13356 Eldridge Avenue  
Sylmar, CA 91342

Dear President Valles:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 4-6, 2008, reviewed the Progress Report submitted by Los Angeles Mission College and the report of the evaluation team which visited on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. The Commission took action to accept the report, with the requirement that the College complete a Report by **March 1, 2009**. That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

I also 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 including possible termination of accreditation. Los Angeles Mission College must correct the deficiencies noted by **June 2009**.

The Report of **March 1, 2009** should demonstrate the institution's resolution of the recommendations below:

**Recommendation 2: College Governance**

It is commendable that the College crafted and approved a new governance model. However, the model is untested and will require a commitment to the tenets of participatory governance to make it successful and useful to the College decision-making process. The team recommends that the areas of responsibility be defined to clarify the outcomes of any given governance process (Standard IV.A.1, IV.A.2, IV.A.2.a, IV.A.3).

**Recommendation 3: Evaluation and Effectiveness of Governance Committees**

The team recommends that the College Council implement the regular and systematic evaluation of the effectiveness and integrity of its collaborative governance committees by fall 2008 (Standard IV.A.5).

**Recommendation 7: District Progress on SLOs and Faculty Evaluation**

The team recommends that the district should provide leadership in supporting the progress toward incorporating achievement of stated student learning outcomes as a component of faculty evaluation (Standard III.A.1.c.).

With regard to Recommendation 7 above, the Commission notes that the standard cited (III.A.1.c) also assigns this responsibility to "others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated student learning outcomes."

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**Recommendation 8: District Plan for Retiree Health Benefit Liability**

The team recommends that the College should closely monitor in future years the success of the district's plan for addressing retiree health benefit liability to assure that out-year obligations are met without significant impact on the financial health of the institution (Standard III.D.1.c).

With regard to Recommendation 8 above, the Commission is seeking evidence that the district has developed, implemented, and is adhering to a plan which will address the unfunded retiree health benefit liability without significant negative impact on the financial health of the institution.

**Commission Concern 2 (from the June 2007 Commission Action Letter)**

The Commission requires that the College demonstrate in the Progress Report that it is in compliance with Eligibility Requirement 19 which requires "The institution systematically evaluates and makes public how well and in what ways it is accomplishing its purposes, including assessment of student learning outcomes. The institution provides evidence of planning for improvement of institutional structures and processes, student achievement of educational goals, and student learning. The institution assesses progress toward achieving its stated goals and makes decisions regarding improvement through an ongoing and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, resource allocation, implementation, and re-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. The Progress Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation.

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: Mr. Mark Drummond, Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District  
Ms. Alma Johnson-Hawkins, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Los Angeles Community College District  
Dr. Helen Benjamin, Team Chair  
Evaluation Team Members