



July 9, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to report that Los Angeles Mission College has been notified of the Accrediting Commission's action on its application for reaffirmation of accreditation. "The Commission acted to issue Warning and to ask that LAMC correct the deficiencies noted. The College is required to complete a Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2014. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives." The Commission's complete letter to the college can be seen at <http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/ActionLetter.pdf>¹

Mission, like all California Community Colleges, is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC).

"Warning" is the first of three levels of sanction that the ACCJC issues² and we must take this status very seriously. However, I believe that addressing the Commission's concern is well within Mission's reach and doing so will be of highest priority.

To put this outcome in context, you may review the list of actions taken by the Commission in its June, 2012, meeting.³ A majority of colleges in the Commission's purview, especially California Community Colleges, are subject to some sanction.

Be assured that Mission remains fully accredited while on Warning. Classes continue, and credits apply toward degrees and certificates and remain transferable to universities and colleges. Student financial aid eligibility continues unchanged. The full Evaluation Report is posted at <http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/ExternalEvaluationReport.pdf>⁴

The purpose of accreditation is continuous improvement. The Commission's action to issue Warning is based on a requirement that improvements be made in a number of areas at the college. Required college improvements include:

Reviewing the Mission statement through shared governance, assessment of achievement and learning outcomes, developing a comprehensive program of research and evaluation, aligning Distance Education to meet the needs of students, assessment of learning styles, establishing metrics of performance for resource allocation and improvements in student learning, conducting an assessment of student services, ensuring student services is engaged in program review, and assessing collegiality efforts. In addition a human resource and technology replacement plan needs to be established, student complaint system formalized, and training of staff on TBA documentation.

Los Angeles Valley College was placed on warning as well. Pierce College achieved reaffirmation.

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The accreditation process reminds us as educators that we must continue to strive for excellence in our instructional program and our services to students, as well as in the organizational standards of good practice that are expected of us under ACCJC standards.⁵ I have already engaged the college leadership to create a plan of action. This has been vetted through the Accreditation Steering Committee and will be presented to Shared Governance Committees and the College Council this summer. Notably, one of our own action plans is to increase faculty and staff participation in this meaningful effort. By fall, all of us, at some level, can expect to have a role in moving the college forward.

I am committed to leading Mission in the unified effort needed to respond to these recommendations. While financial resources are limited, we have an excellent team of professionals who can come together to respond to these recommendations for improvement.

Sincerely,

Monte E. Perez, PhD
President

DOCUMENTS REFERENCED ARE ALL AVAILABLE AT:

¹ Commission's Action Letter to Mission College (July 3, 2013)

<http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/ActionLetter.pdf>

² About Sanctions

<http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/AboutSanctions.pdf>

³ Commission Actions on Institutions – Memo dated July 3, 2013

<http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/2013CommissionActions.pdf>

⁴ The 2013 External Evaluation Report

<http://www.lamission.edu/2013accreditation/docs/ExternalEvaluationReport.pdf>

⁵ ACCJC Standards as of June 2012:

http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Accreditation-Standards_Edited-Nov-2012.pdf

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