



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
NOVATO, CA 94949
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234
FAX: (415) 506-0238
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org
www.accjc.org

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July 3, 2014

Dr. Victor Jaime
Superintendent/President
Imperial Valley College
P. O. Box 158
Imperial, CA 92251

Dear Superintendent/President Jaime:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 4-6, 2014, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Imperial Valley College, the Report of the Evaluation Team that visited Monday, April 14, 2014, and the Special Financial Review Report. The Commission acted to continue Imperial Valley College on Warning and require a **Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2015**. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.¹

The Follow-Up Report of 2015 should provide evidence demonstrating the College has addressed Recommendations 1 and 8, noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and meets Accreditation Standards.

Need to Resolve Deficiencies:

The Accreditation Standards, as an integrated whole, represent indicators of academic quality and institutional effectiveness. Deficiencies in any Standards will impact quality at an institution, and ultimately the educational environment and experiences of students. The Commission found Imperial Valley College remains deficient in meeting the following Accreditation Standards: I.B.3, II.C.1.b, III.D.1.a, III.D.3.a, III.D.4, IV.A.5, IV.B.1.c, IV.B.2.d from College recommendations.

Recommendation 1: In order to fully meet the Standard, the team recommends that the College consistently link the institutional goals and objectives detailed in the Educational Master Plan with operational plan goals and resource allocations, including technology resources, in order to assess progress toward meeting institutional goals. In addition, the College should establish a planning calendar that identifies all planning activities, committees, and the roles of various College plans, and includes institutional effectiveness assessment and improvement cycles. (I.B.3, II.C.1b, IV.A.5)

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Recommendation 8: In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends the College develop a financial strategy that will result in balanced budgets that have ongoing revenues to meet or exceed its ongoing expenditures without the use of reserves; maintain the minimum prudent reserve level; and address funding for its long-term financial commitments and its retiree health benefit costs. (III.D.1.a, III.D.3.a, III.D.4, IV.B.1.c, and IV.B.2.d)

Under U.S. Department of Education enforcement regulations, the Commission is required to take immediate action to terminate the accreditation of an institution which is out of compliance with any standard. In the alternative, the Commission can provide the institution with additional notice and a deadline for coming into compliance that is no later than two years from when the institution was first informed of the noncompliance. In exceptional situations, if the institution has done all within its authority to reach compliance on any standard but remains out of compliance, the Commission is permitted by regulations to allocate a one-time, short-term “good cause extension” for the college to reach compliance prior to acting on the institution’s termination. However, continued noncompliance with multiple standards would diminish the appropriateness of such an extension. Imperial Valley College should fully resolve the noted deficiencies by **March 2015**.

The purpose of the Special Financial Review Report was to provide current information on actions taken by Imperial Valley College to address permanent fixed costs resulting from mandated entitlements in the College’s collective bargaining contracts. The Report identified actions taken to reduce costs and stabilize institutional finances. Issues related to the collective bargaining contract with classified employees have not yet been resolved and should be addressed in the Follow-Up Report related to Recommendation 8. The Report adequately describes the actions taken by the College as noted by the Special Financial Reviewer Panel.

The Follow-Up Report, the Special Report submitted in March 2014, and the External Evaluation Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College. The Commission requires that you give the College Reports, the External Evaluation Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your Follow-Up and Special Reports. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Follow-Up and Special Reports, the External Evaluation Report, and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution’s home page.*

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Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle. Imperial Valley College must demonstrate to the Commission at the time of the next regularly scheduled report and visit that the recent changes implemented to resolve deficiencies and meet Eligibility Requirements and Standards have been sustained.

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 institutional integrity, effectiveness, educational quality, and student success.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. It contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: <http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>.