



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2010

Dr. Robert Adams
President
Merritt College
12500 Campus Drive
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear President Adams:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9-11, 2010, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Merritt College and the report of the evaluation team which visited Thursday, April 15, 2010. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the previous evaluation team and the Commission were addressed by the institution. The Commission took action to accept the report. The Commission also requires that Merritt College provide a Follow-Up Report by **October 15, 2010**, demonstrating that it has fully addressed Recommendation 2 of the 2009 comprehensive evaluation team and is now in compliance with associated Standards. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives, and the College is advised to have evidence to support its report available to the visiting team.

Recommendation 2: Program Review

The team recommends that the college further refine its program review, planning, and resource allocation processes so that they are more clearly based on an analysis of quality, effectiveness, and student learning. Furthermore, the college must develop a systematic means to evaluate those processes and assess whether its plans actually lead to improvements in programs and services (Standards I.B.3, I.B.6, I.B.7).

The Commission also acted to place Merritt College on **Probation**, effective immediately, for significant deficiencies identified by the 2010 Special Visit Team to the Peralta Community College District.

The Peralta Community College District and its Board of Trustees provide policy, fiscal and other management and support services that support the four colleges of the District. When the District and its Board of Trustees fail to operate in a manner that meets Accreditation Standards, the deficiencies may jeopardize the accreditation of all of the District's colleges. Responsibility for correcting the deficiencies is with both the District as well as the colleges. (Please see *Policy and Procedures for the Evaluation of Institutions in Multi-College/Multi-Unit Districts or Systems.*)

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Probation is issued when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission. The accredited status of the institution continues during the Probation period.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Commission's letter to the Peralta Community College District and the Team Report outlining the reasons for the sanction of Probation.

I 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 to terminate accreditation. Merritt College and the Peralta Community College District should resolve the deficiencies noted by **June 2011** or the Commission will be compelled to act.

The Commission requires that you give the college report, the Commission letter to the Peralta Community College District Chancellor, and this letter to Merritt College 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 Follow-Up Report and the Commission action letters will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation.

Finally, ACCJC staff is available to assist the College with consultation and advice on accreditation matters. Please call the office if you have any questions or requests.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Elihu Harris, Chancellor, Peralta Community College District
Dr. Wise Allen, Vice Chancellor
Dr. Linda Berry, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Peralta Community College District
Mr. Michael Claire, Team Chair
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S.D.E.

Enclosure