

January 26, 2023

Dr. David Johnson  
President  
Merritt College  
12500 Campus Drive  
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear Dr. Johnson:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-12, 2023, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by Merritt College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on October 13-14, 2022. The Commission appreciated the spoken remarks of Dr. Jannett Jackson, Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District, as well as your participation in the meeting, and that of Dr. Angélica Garcia, President, Berkeley City College; Dr. Rudolph Besikof, President, Laney College; Dr. Nathaniel Jones III, Peralta CCD Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance & Administration; and Dr. Stephanie Droker, Peralta CCD Interim Deputy Chancellor/Chief Operating Officer. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the fiscal deficiencies and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's January 27, 2022, Action Letter.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the cycle**. The Commission finds that Merritt College has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standards III.D.5, III.D.6, III.D.7, III.D.8, III.D.10, IV.C.1, IV.C.2, and IV.C.4. Further, the Commission finds that the College has resolved remaining deficiencies identified through fiscal monitoring. The Commission requires that you disseminate the Follow-Up Report, 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. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on March 15, 2025. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term 2027 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term 2028.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Merritt College undertook to respond to these requirements. 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. Jannett Jackson, Interim Chancellor, Peralta Community College District  
Dr. Denise Richardson, Accreditation Liaison Officer

---

<sup>1</sup> Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out plans/agreements to the Commission should review *Guidelines for Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/guides-and-manuals/>.