



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Richard Winn, Interim President
Raúl Rodríguez, Chair

February 3, 2017

CORRECTED LETTER

Dr. Marie-Elaine Burns
Interim President
Merritt College
12500 Campus Drive
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear President Burns:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 11-13, 2017, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and evidentiary materials submitted by Merritt College and the External Evaluation Team Follow-Up Report (Team Report) prepared by the evaluation team that visited November 8-9, 2016. College leadership, including the president of the governing board, the chancellor, and the College president, certified the College's report. The purpose of the Commission's review was to determine whether the College had resolved deficiencies noted during the spring 2015 comprehensive review and now meets Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies.

After considering the material noted above, the Commission finds that Merritt College has addressed College Recommendations 1 through 5, 7 through 9, and District Recommendations 1 through 8, as noted by the spring 2015 comprehensive evaluation team, resolved the deficiencies, and meets Standards I.A.3, I.A.4, I.B, I.B.1-6, II.A, II.A.1.c, II.A.2, II.A.2.a-b, II.A.2.e-h, II.A.5, II.A.6, II.A.6.b, II.B, II.B.3.c, II.B.4, II.C, II.C.2, III.A.1.b, III.A.2, III.A.6, III.B.1, III.B.1.a, III.B.2, III.B.2.a-b, III.C.2, III.D.1.a-c, III.D.2.b, III.D.3.c, III.D.3.h, III.D.4, IV.A.1.a-b, IV.A.2.a-b, and IV.A.3, IV.B.1, IV.B.1.a, IV.B.1.e, IV.B.1.j, IV.B.3, IV.B.3.b-c, and IV.B.3.g. On reviewing the evidence submitted by the College, the Commission considers the Standards cited in District Recommendations 5 and 6 to be met once the staffing plan has been fully realized and the College/District functional responsibilities have been followed. This will require additional time to document, but the College and District have resolved the deficiencies noted in these recommendations.

The Commission took action to **remove Probation and issue Warning**, grant a good cause extension, and require the College to submit a Follow-Up Report in 12 months. The Follow-Up Report is due in **October, 2017** and will be followed by a visit by Commission Representatives.¹ The College's Midterm Report will be due in March 2018.

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*, found on the ACCJC website at: www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc.

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The Commission finds that the College is in the process of addressing College Recommendation 6, but has not yet achieved compliance with Standards I.B.1, I.B.3, I.B.5, I.B.6, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.c, II.A.2.e, and II.A.2.f.

Recommendation 6: In order to meet the Standards, the Team recommends the College accelerate the identification and documentation of student learning outcomes for all courses, programs, certificates and degrees, and to assess student attainment of those outcomes to ensure that all of its instructional courses and programs are of high quality and to make improvements. (I.B.1, I.B.3, I.B.5, I.B.6, II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.2.a, II.A.2.b, II.A.2.c, II.A.2.e, and II.A.2.f)

A **final copy** of the Team Report is attached. Commission changes to the Report are noted on a separate page for inclusion with the Team Report. The Commission requires the College give the Follow-Up Report, the Team Report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to College staff and to those who were signatories of the Follow-Up Report, and that these documents be made available to students and to the public by posting them to the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no more than one click from the institution's home page.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the collaborative work that Merritt College undertook to prepare the Follow-Up Report, and to support the work of the external evaluation team. Thank you for sharing the values and the work of accreditation to ensure educational quality and to support student success. Accreditation and peer review are most effective when the College and the ACCJC work together to focus on student outcomes and continuous quality improvement in higher education.

If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Commission action, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the ACCJC Vice Presidents. We would be glad to help you.

Sincerely,



Richard Winn, Ed.D
Interim President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Chancellor, Peralta Community College District

Attachment