

June 29, 2020

Dr. Monica Green, President  
Norco College  
2001 Third Street  
Norco, CA 92860

Dear Dr. Green:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 10-12, 2020, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Norco College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 2-5, 2020.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

#### Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Norco College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

**Standard I.A.3, IV.A.1 (College Commendation 1):** The Commission commends the College for cultivating a collaborative culture of innovation as reflected in its mission that uses data and assessment to set transformational goals and strategies to improve the educational and economic outcomes of the College and region.

**Standard I.B.1. (College Commendation 2):** The Commission commends the College for its sustained and substantive dialogue about equitable student outcomes and employing a guided pathways framework which is pervasive and informs student and instructional support, institutional decision-making and resource allocation.

**Standard II.A.7, II.B.1, II.C.3 (College Commendation 3):** The Commission commends the College for its innovative practices that lead to increased student access and success of its diverse population, as exemplified by its strong external partnerships such as its dual enrollment program, middle college high school, and Prison Education Program.

**Standard IV.D.2, IV.D.3 (District Commendation 1):** The Commission commends the District and the District Budget Advisory Council for their vigorous, data-driven, process to finalize a Budget Allocation Model that provides clear information and rationale for decision-making that is perceived by all constituents as fair, equitable and transparent.

#### Compliance Requirements

None.

#### Modifications to Team Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission modified the team's recommendation(s) as follows:

The Commission added Standard III.A.13 to **District Recommendation 1**. The Commission also determined that **District Recommendation 2** and **District Recommendation 3** be deleted from the team report.

#### Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted College Recommendation 1 and District Recommendation 1 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

#### Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on March 15, 2024. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2027.

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

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Norco College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well 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. Stephanie Droker or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.  
ACCJC President



Ian Walton, Ph.D.  
ACCJC Chair

cc: Dr. Wolde-Ab Isaac, Chancellor, Riverside Community College District  
Dr. Samuel Lee, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure