



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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ITAS
TOM LANE

March 17, 2006

Dr. Anthony Tricoli
Superintendent-President
West Hills College Coalinga
300 Cherry Lane
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear President Tricoli:

At the meeting of June 8-10, 2005, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges took action with regard to West Hills College Coalinga, which included requiring a Progress Report with a visit. This letter will confirm that the report is due to the visiting team members by March 21, 2006, and the visit will take place on Monday, March 27, 2006.

You are reminded to send one electronic copy and three hard copies of the Progress Report to the Commission office.

The team roster is attached. Should any member of this team represent a conflict of interest or otherwise warrant attention, please contact me promptly. The team will devote its attentions primarily to the matters that are identified in the Action Letter (attached) and to which the report is directed. You will be hearing from the team chair to discuss the visit and take care of any logistical matters that might be involved.

Upon completion of the visit, the Team Chair will prepare a short report which will be presented to the Commission at its meeting in June 2006. Soon after the meeting, the College will be informed of the action taken by the Commission. I must remind you that after the visit, the College will be billed for the visit itself (direct costs plus fifteen percent for office overhead).

Thank you for all of your work in support of accreditation processes. Quality assurance, institutional effectiveness and ongoing improvement can only result with the kind of special efforts that you and West Hills College Coalinga are making.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

March 17, 2006

West Hills College Coalinga
Progress Report Visit Team Roster
Monday, March 27, 2006

The college's Progress Report must be sent to each team member prior to the visit in addition to the three hard copies and the electronic version sent to the Commission office.

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ITAS
TOM LANE

June 28, 2005

Dr. Anthony Tricoli
President
West Hills College Coalinga
300 Cherry Lane
Coalinga, CA 93210

Dear President Tricoli:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 8-10, 2005, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited West Hills College Coalinga on Tuesday, March 22-Thursday, March 24, 2005. The Commission acted to issue a **Warning** and to ask that West Hills College Coalinga correct the deficiencies noted. The college is required to complete a Progress Report by **March 15, 2006**. That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

A warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's eligibility criteria, standards of accreditation, or policy to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet accreditation standards. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period. However, the institution's accreditation will not be reaffirmed until the conditions which warranted the warning are removed.

I also wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation.

The Progress Report of March 15, 2006 should focus on demonstrating that the college meets **Eligibility Requirements 17 and 20** and respond to the recommendations and concerns listed below:

Recommendation 2. The team recommends that the college identify those academic programs that it is no longer offering due to a lack of resources, and either develop the resources needed to provide the programs or remove them from the college catalog and other college sources of information provided to potential students (Standard II.A.1.).

Recommendation 3. The team recommends that the college complete an assessment of the accessibility of its online services – especially initial application to the college and availability of the college catalog and

Dr. Anthony Tricoli
West Hills College Coalinga
June 28, 2005
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The visiting team noted and the Commission is concerned that the college offers only nine of the twenty programs of study as published in the catalog. Some courses have not been offered in more than ten years. The Commission requires an accredited institution to ensure that its communications to students accurately portray the college, and requires West Hills College Coalinga to update its catalogue in order to insure its integrity, as per Recommendation 2, above (ER 20 and Standard II.A.6.c, II.B.2, 2.a).

Enclosed is a **revised, final team report**. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the self study report, the team report and this letter dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the self study report be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, the college is expected to use the report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. West Hills College Coalinga should submit the Midterm Report by **March 15, 2008**. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The college also includes a summary of progress on college-identified concerns as expressed in the self study.

The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of West Hills Community College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during **Spring 2011**.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards One and Two). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.