

WEST
HILLS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
DISTRICT

West Hills College Coalinga

West Hills College Lemoore

North District Center

Naval Air Station Lemoore

Office of the President Coalinga
Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli
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May 31, 2005

Ms. Barbara A. Beno, Executive Director
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
10 Commercial Boulevard Suite 204
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Ms. Beno,

First let me share that we believe the visiting accreditation team members conducted a fair assessment of our self-study, team members acted professionally, and they showed genuine care for our college during their visit. The opportunity to conduct the self study in an open and honest forum has led our college staff to at least two conclusions: 1) the college staff and students, and the community-at-large are very pleased with the success of our college at meeting the needs of our students and our community; and 2) the college staff believe we could tweak our processes a bit and gain increased positive outcomes for students while strengthening our institution

In response to the letter from the Commission dated 5/16/05, I would like to thank you for enabling me to provide further information which might help to fully convey where we are in our planning process. In particular I am referring to the section identified as "1B. Improving Institutional Effectiveness" (paragraph 3 and 4).

Point #1:

The Visiting Team's Draft Statement: "The institution has not yet developed a full cycle of planning, implementation, and evaluation, although some efforts are underway to implement the "Voices, Values, and Vision" planning goals. (Standard 1.B.3)"

Our Concern: Our concern is that the reader of this statement might come to believe that the college has not developed of full cycle of planning, implementation and evaluation.

Our Response: The College has developed a full cycle of planning, and the college has implemented the plan. We have just completed the first year of a five-year cycle. We are using the “quality circle” processes of brainstorming and fishbone diagraming along with timelines to evaluate and validate that our work is being completed, and to calendar the accomplishments of our goals via KPI’s which have been developed by our various college councils.

Some Background: Approximately 3 years ago the college started a strategic planning process (Voices, Values and Vision) to enlist the help of the college community and the community-at-large to refine the existing mission, vision, values and goals statements. The college staff decided to develop a collaborative review process which would gain the opinions of as many constituents (on and off campus) as possible. We did this in part because we are moving from a single college campus district to a multi-college district, and because we wanted our college to establish an autonomous identity from that of our sister college in Lemoore and the district office in Coalinga.

The outcomes of this work is verified by the achievement of the new mission and vision statements, new values, new goals, new college committee structure, new college organizational structure, new college budget process (linked to program review and planning), and new college branding, just to list a few of the changes which have occurred over the past three years as a result of the development and implementation of the strategic planning process.

Point #2:

The Visiting Team’s Draft Statement: “There is wide-spread ownership, not only at the college but in the community, of the “Voices, Values, and Vision” planning goals and a sense of excitement about how these activities will help to further develop the college. However, the college has not yet effectively aligned the budget allocation process to planning, partly because budget allocation methodologies within the new multi-college district have not been developed (Standard 1.B.4)”

Our Concern: Our concern is that the reader of this statement might come to believe that the college has not developed or effectively aligned the budget allocation process to planning.

Our Response: The College has a college budget allocation process in place which is aligned with the college planning process. In addition the college budget process is also aligned with the college program review process. The college budget allocation process was discussed widely in all college councils and it was approved in a collegial manner in the College Consultation Council which has a membership of faculty, staff, students and administrators.

Some Background: For many years, West Hills College in Coalinga, and its attendance centers in Lemoore and Firebaugh successfully allocated its fiscal budget between the three sites. In recent years the WHCCD board of trustees has been moving our single college district toward a multi-college district. As such, many functions are currently in

the process of change. One function however, which has already been completed at the college level, is the campus budget allocation process. While budget allocation methodologies may not be fully implemented at the district level, the district has been exploring methodologies with the two colleges and we are closing in on a district allocation model. Please understand however, that the college does indeed have an allocation model in place which explicitly links the college budget to the college strategic plan, and which uses the college program review process as a guide to distributing those funds.

Two final issues for your consideration include the following:

Point #3:

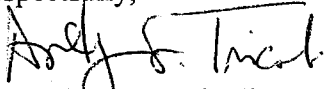
The college faculty and administration are in the process of completing a “draft” of the Educational Master Plan. The visiting team asked about this, and as you will see on page 9, section II, second paragraph, they understood that “The College’s Educational Master Plan, still in draft form...” However, on page 4 (see #4), and page 20 (see Recommendation 4) the team simply forgot to include the word “draft” preceding the words “Educational Master Plan.”

Point #4:

During their visit, the team asked questions about the total number of faculty which are located on the Coalinga campus. We shared that we have 47 faculty assigned to the college in Coalinga, and a total of 85 in the district (Coalinga and Lemoore). I bring this point to your attention, as a matter of interest because the focus of this evaluation report is about West Hills College Coalinga, and we have a total of 47 faculty. I am not sure how you wish to address this point, but I thought it would be best to bring it to your attention (please see page 24, first paragraph).

I thank you for providing me the opportunity to share with you my thoughts about the visiting team’s report, and I appreciate any consideration you might give regarding the few issues I raised above.

Respectfully,



Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli, President
West Hills College Coalinga

Enclosures