



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 29, 2007

Dr. Jeffrey Bobbitt
Acting Superintendent/President
College of the Redwoods
7351 Tompkins Hill Road
Eureka, CA 95501



Dear President Bobbitt:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 6-8, 2007, reviewed the Progress Report submitted by College of the Redwoods and the report of the evaluation team which visited on Monday, April 23, 2007.

The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution. The Commission took action to accept the report.

The Commission also acted to place College of the Redwoods on **Probation** and to ask that the college correct the deficiencies noted. The college is required to complete a Progress Report by **October 15, 2007**. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

Probation is issued when the Commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission's eligibility criteria, standards, or policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission. The accredited status of the institution continues during the probation period.

The Commission observes that since College of the Redwoods was notified of the Commission's recommendations listed below, the College has made negligible progress in resolving its deficiencies. The Commission therefore informs the College that should there not be evidence of significant progress in resolving these deficiencies in the October 15, 2007 Progress Report, the College may face a further sanction of Show Cause at the Commission's next meeting.

The Progress Report of **October 15, 2007** should focus on the institution's resolution of the recommendations below:

Recommendation 1: The team recommends that the college develop and implement a means of systematic, collaborative, and evidence-driven Program Review for all instruction, student services, and institutional support areas. In order to assure maximum effectiveness, such reviews should be conducted on a regular cycle that links the findings to the annual planning process for all programs and services. (Standard IB.3, IB.4, IB.5, IB.6, IB.7; Standard IIA.1, IIA.2, IIB.3, IIB.4, IIC.2; and Standard IIIA.6, IIIB.1, IIIB.2, IIIC.2, IIID.1, IIID.2g, IIID.3)

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Recommendation 5: The team recommends that the district improve its planning processes to include the development of a long-range educational plan; the development of a facilities master plan; and the development of an information technology plan. It is further recommended that the district develop a long-range financial planning process to provide early notice of structural imbalances between revenue and expenditures; to identify resources needed to adequately support changes in technology systems, facilities, and enhancement to student support systems; and to regulate the pace of changes consistent with available funds. (Standard IA.1, IA.4; IB.3, IB.4, IB.5, IB.6, IB.7; and IIB.2b, IIC.1, IIC.1c, IIC.2, IID.1a, IID.1b, IID.1c, III.2)

Recommendation 6: The team recommends that the college develop a financial plan that will accomplish the following goals: Respond to declining revenue resulting from the loss of full-time equivalent students, establish a prudent and sufficient unrestricted general fund balance reserve, and address changes in annual expenditures to assure that such expenditures are equal to or less than available resources. (Standard III D.2c)

Recommendation 7: The team recommends that the college improve its capacity for collaborative and data-driven decision-making. Such decision-making should incorporate broad-based participation, use of qualitative and quantitative data, and establish appropriate measures of effectiveness. (Standard IB.3, IB.4, IB.5, IB.6, IB.7; Standard IIA.1, IIA.2, IIA.2f, IIB.3, IIB.4, IIC.2; Standard IIIA.6, IIIB.1, IIIB.2, IIC.2, IID.1, IID.2g, IIID.3; and Standard IVA.1, IVA.2, IVA.3)

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.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. The Progress Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation.

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On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Ms. Sydney Larson, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Redwoods Community College District
Dr. Steven Kinsella, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S. DOE

Enclosure