



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 16, 2004

Dr. Marie Smith
President
American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841

Dear President Smith:

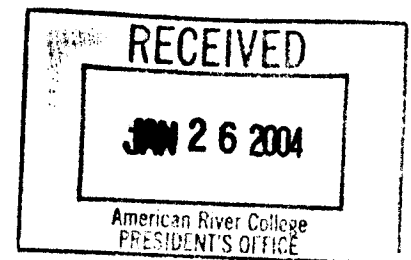
The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 7-9, 2004, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited American River College on Tuesday, October 14-Thursday, October 16, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that accreditation has been reaffirmed.

The college is commended for the collegial culture in which campus constituencies can work in an environment supportive of students. The college is further commended for its commitment to good practices in all aspects of planning and operations as well as for its use of the mission statement as an integral part of college planning. The college is also commended for its curriculum development process and its use of program review to inform decision-making.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the self study, 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 report and the self study be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the team 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 an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, but we do expect that the report will be used 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. American River College should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2006**. Midterm Reports indicate progress



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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 American River College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during academic year **fall 2009**.

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. A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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
Executive Director

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Brice Harris, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District
Ms. Rachel Rosenthal, Accreditation Liaison Officer w/enclosure
Board President, Los Rios Community College District
Mr. Darroch "Rocky" Young, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members

Enclosure