



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2003

Dr. Deborah Blue
President
Laney College
900 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Blue:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 11-13, 2003, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Laney College on Tuesday, March 18-Thursday, March 20, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that accreditation has been reaffirmed, with a requirement that the college complete a Progress Report. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Commission asks that a Progress Report be submitted by **March 15, 2004**. The Progress Report should focus on the recommendations and concerns as noted below:

13. The team recommends that the Board of Trustees move expeditiously to appoint an interim chancellor and begin the process of recruiting a permanent chancellor. The team further recommends that the Board of Trustees direct the new chancellor to make stability of both college and district administrative personnel a priority. (Standards 10.C.1, 10.C.2)
12. The team recommends that the Board of Trustees adhere to its appropriate functions and policy orientation, and rely upon the district chancellor for recommendations affecting the organization of the district as well as the hiring, retention, and termination of all categories of district and college staff. The team further recommends that the Board of Trustees ensure that the district is continuously led by a chancellor as its chief executive officer. Finally, the team recommends that the Board of Trustees clearly identify and widely disseminate the roles and responsibilities assigned to the district administration and those assigned to the college administration, so that the appropriate responsibility and authority are specified and related accountability standards are established. (Standards 10.A.3, 10.A.4, 10.C.1, 10.C.2, 10.C.3, 10.C.5)

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VP OF INSTRUCTION
LANEY COLLEGE

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4. The team recommends that a district-wide plan and an implementation process be created that are strategic and systematically integrate the educational, financial, physical, and human resources of the district. All planning processes should be inclusive of the four colleges and the communities served by the district. The plan should include identified institutional outcomes with criteria for evaluation on a periodic basis. It is recommended that the district-wide plan integrate the educational master plans and program reviews of the colleges. The team also recommends that the chancellor ensure that the plan and the ongoing planning processes are communicated throughout the district. (Standards 3.B.1, 3.B.3, 3.C.1, 3.C.3, 10.C.1, 10.C.6)
11. The team recommends that the Peralta Community College District provide a detailed and concrete plan that clearly identifies the steps, timelines, and measurable actions that are being undertaken by the district to provide funding for the long-term liability posed by healthcare benefits. (Standard 9.C.1)
3. The team recommends that the college assign the highest priority to completing and substantially implementing an effective, meaningful, systematic, and comprehensive institutional strategic master plan. The plan must incorporate educational, fiscal, technological, physical and human resource components linked together with research efforts and closely integrated with the college mission statement. It should also identify short- and long-term directions for the college, timelines for implementation, the individuals responsible for each area, monitoring and follow-up strategies, and expected outcomes. (Standards 3.A.1, 3.A.2, 3.A.3, 3.A.4, 3.B.1, 3.B.2, 3.B.3, 3.C.1, 3.C.2, 3.C.3)

The college is commended for its committed faculty, administration, and staff; for the enthusiasm of its student body; and for its well presented and maintained campus.

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 report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

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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. Laney College should submit the Midterm Report by March 15, 2006. 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. Information about the Midterm Report is found in the 1997 Guide to Institutional Self Study and Reports to the Commission.

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 Laney College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during academic year Spring 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 (see especially Standards Three and Four). 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

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cc: Mr. Elihu Harris, Chancellor, Peralta Community College District
Dr. José Ortiz, Accreditation Liaison Officer (with team report)
Board President, Peralta Community College District
Dr. Constance Carroll, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members