



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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July 3, 2013

Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz
President
Merritt College
12500 Campus Drive
Oakland, CA 94619

Dear President Ambriz-Galaviz:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2013, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by Merritt College, and the report of the evaluation team that visited April 1-2, 2013. The Commission took action to remove Warning and **reaffirm accreditation**.

The College reported, and the team confirmed, that the Peralta Community College District has addressed all prior year audit findings from 2008-09 through 2010-11 as well as the four new audit findings for 2011-12. It is clear that the District has developed a process for addressing audit findings in a prompt and focused manner. The District has tackled its significant budget problems seriously and intently, with the result that the District is in healthy financial condition. It has also completed its review of Board policies making revisions as necessary. The visiting team found that Merritt College has maintained the educational quality of its programs and services. Any negative impacts resulting from past budget reductions have been minimized so that the College remains focused on its mission.

Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle. In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions are expected to have fully resolved all deficiencies within two years of when they were first identified to the College, and to have addressed all recommendations. At the time of the next regularly scheduled visit, the evaluation team will examine evidence to confirm that the College's described changes and steps taken to achieve full compliance with Standards have been sustained.

The Follow-Up Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College. 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, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees.



Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz
Merritt College
July 3, 2013

The Commission also requires that the Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Visit Report, and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution's home page.* If you would like an electronic copy of the Follow-Up Visit Report, please contact Commission staff.

Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle and to provide evidence that they have addressed and resolved the recommendations made by the previous comprehensive evaluation team. Merritt College will undergo its next comprehensive review in **spring 2015**.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Ms. Anita Black, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Jose Ortiz, Chancellor, Peralta Community College District
President, Board of Trustees, Peralta Community College District
Mr. Michael Claire, President, College of San Mateo, Team Chair

¹Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. It contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (<http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc>).