

June 28, 2019

Mr. Jeff Cummings, Superintendent/President
Copper Mountain College
6162 Rotary Way
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Dear President Cummings:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Copper Mountain College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College March 4-7, 2019. The Commission considered the written response to the evaluation team report that you submitted prior to the Commission meeting, as well as your spoken testimony and that of Mr. Jacob Kevari, Director of Institutional Effectiveness. The Commission found these additional perspectives to be helpful.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for 18 months and require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than October 1, 2020.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Copper Mountain College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

Commendation 1: The Team commends the College's implementation of its mission to understand and meet the needs of its unique community, characterized by its inclusive approach to its local community and constituents, including engaging with, and responding to, community concerns and recommendations; being proactive in building relationships with, and supporting, K-12 educational partners; and crafting and carrying out a mission that best serves the College's desert communities and student population. (I.A.3)

Commendation 2: The Team commends the College's leadership in creating and encouraging innovation resulting in institutional excellence, and for empowering all employees to take initiative to provide exemplary service to students and the broader community. (IV.A.1)

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standards, as identified in the College recommendations. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

Standard I.B.2, II.A.3, II.A.11 (College Recommendation 1): In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the College complete its course, program, and institutional level learning outcomes assessment cycle.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years¹.

Modifications to Recommendations

The Commission also determined that the wording of the recommendation should be revised as follows:

Original Recommendation #1 (Compliance): In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the College follow its course, program, and institutional level learning outcomes cycle. (I.B.2, II.A.3, II.A.11)

Revised Recommendation #1 (Compliance): In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that the College complete its course, program, and institutional level learning outcomes assessment cycle. (I.B.2, II.A.3, II.A.11)

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 2, 3, 4 for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website.

¹ For more information, refer to "[The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause](#)" available on the ACCJC website.

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Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Copper Mountain College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Mr. Jacob Kevari, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure