

June 28, 2019

Dr. Willard Lewallen, Superintendent/President
Hartnell College
411 Central Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear President Lewallen:

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 Hartnell 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. 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 information noted above, the Commission acted to **reaffirm accreditation for seven years.**

Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Hartnell 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 for the successful implementation of its mission and commitment to student learning, student achievement, and student participation. (I.A.1, I.A.3)

Commendation 2: The team commends the College for fostering strong community and industry partnerships, exemplified at the Alisal Campus, to provide resources, internships, and employment opportunities that enhance its instructional programs. (II.A.14, II.A.16, III.D.4)

Commendation 3: The team commends the College for creating a campus culture that values assessment as a process for improving programs and courses. Faculty have embraced student learning outcomes assessment and use the evaluation process as a way to enact meaningful change. (II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.16)

Compliance Requirements:

None.

Modifications to Recommendations

In taking its action, the Commission determined that **Recommendation 2** be deleted from the team report.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 1 and 3 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. 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. 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2023. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2026.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Hartnell 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.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission should review *Guidelines for the Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/publications/>.

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If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me as the currently-assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

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

Richard Winn, Ed.D.
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. Sonja Lolland, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure