



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 15, 2001

Dr. Salvatore G. Rotella
Superintendent-President
Riverside Community College
4800 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506

Dear President Rotella:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 3-5, 2001, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Riverside Community College on March 20-22, 2001. I am pleased to inform you that accreditation has been reaffirmed, with a requirement that the college complete an Interim Report.

The Commission asks that an Interim Report be submitted by November 1, 2002. The Interim Report should focus on the five key recommendations from the evaluation team report as noted below:

1. The team recommends that Riverside Community College proceed with its plan to "establish a process for regular review and...revision of the mission statement" to better guide planning and to recognize the unique aspects of the District's emerging three-college status. (Standards 1.3, 1.4)
2. The team recommends that Riverside Community College formalize and make known to the college community its developing strategic planning process, which should integrate educational, financial, facilities, and human resources planning (3.B.3, 4.B.1, 8.5, 10.A.3), provide for involvement of faculty, staff, and students and effectively involve all three campuses (3.B.1, 10.B.6, 10.B.9, 10.B.10). The planning process should utilize information from program reviews (3.A.4, 3.B.2, 4.D.1, 4.D.6), more closely integrate college planning and budgeting processes (3.B.1, 9.A.1), and include regular evaluation and reporting of institutional outcomes. (3.A.3, 3.C.1, 3.C.2)
3. The team recommends that Riverside Community College ensure that its curriculum review and approval processes include regular updates and review of all course outlines, specific approval of distance education courses, and accepted practices for establishment of course sequences. (4.B.2, 4.B.3, 4.D.5, 4.D.6, 4.D.7)

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4. The team recommends that hiring and evaluation practices for all categories of staff move from practice to policy; that policies to ensure fairness in hiring be adopted for all categories of employees, including adjunct and interim faculty; and that all written hiring and evaluation procedures be followed consistently, according to current adopted procedures and timelines. (7.D.1, 7.D.2, 7.D.3)
5. The team recommends that the Board of Trustees implement a self-evaluation procedure. (10.A.5)

The college is commended for its sound and comprehensive academic and student support programs, for its prudent efforts in addressing the substantial challenges of rapid growth and change, and for the collegial atmosphere that characterizes relationships on the various campuses.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study.

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. Riverside Community College should submit the Midterm Report by November 1, 2003. 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.

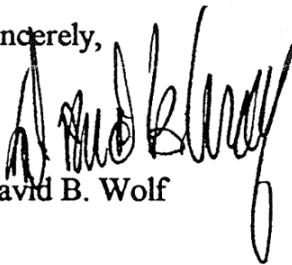
The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of Riverside Community College. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur in fall 2007.

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.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "W".

David B. Wolf

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cc: Mr. Tom Johnson, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President
Dr. John Davitt, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members