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Chancellor's Office

February 3, 2009



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

Dr. Dianne Van Hook
Chancellor
College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Dear Chancellor Van Hook:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 7-9, 2009, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited College of the Canyons on Monday, October 20-Thursday, October 23, 2008. The Commission took action to reaffirm accreditation.

The college is commended for the well-organized Self Study Report and the visual themes matrix at the beginning of each standard. The college's commitment to collaborative governance, numerous community partnerships, data-driven planning and evaluation processes, commitment to technology including student and faculty training and support, a wide array of student services, faculty and staff professional development opportunities, and commitment to student success were all noted by the visiting team and the Commission.

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 team report and this letter dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study report. This group should include campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the Self Study Report be made available to students and 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.

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 while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, the college is expected to use the report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

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All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. College of the Canyons should submit the Midterm Report by **October 15, 2011**. The Commission will send a reminder to the college about the Midterm Report; a description of reporting requirements can be found on the Commission's website.

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 College of the Canyons. The next comprehensive evaluation of the college will occur during **Fall 2014**.

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 One and Two). 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, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Mitjl Capet, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Santa Clarita CCD
Dr. Robert F. Agrella, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members