

February 1, 2021

Dr. Jill Stearns  
Superintendent/President  
Cuesta College  
P. O. Box 8106  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106

Dear Dr. Stearns:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 13-15, 2021, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Cuesta College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College September 28-October 1, 2020.

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.**

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the 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 Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review 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 Report<sup>1</sup> due on October 15, 2024. The institution's next comprehensive review will occur in the fall term of 2027.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Cuesta College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve well 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 Dr. Stephanie Droker or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Droker, Ed.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Dr. Jason Curtis, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure

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<sup>1</sup> 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/guides-and-manuals/>.