



January 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to report that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reaffirmed accreditation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges.

In its report, ACCJC recognized the outstanding work the colleges are doing to provide high academic standards and promote student success. Both colleges were commended for their exemplary commitment to student equity that exceeded Commission standards. Cuyamaca College was commended for its use of data that has led to numerous examples of improvement and innovation, and Grossmont College was praised for aligning its planning, decision-making and resource allocations with the college mission. We should all be very proud of this recognition of institutional excellence by our accreditors.

The Commission did note areas where the district/colleges are not in full compliance with one or more of the standards. Therefore, accreditation for both colleges was reaffirmed for 18 months, with a required follow-up report due by March 2021. In addition, Grossmont College will have a follow-up site visit by a team of peers.

As you know, the purpose of accreditation is for an institution to self-reflect on academic quality and institutional effectiveness to ensure strong outcomes for students. Recommendations for improvement are an important part of the peer review process.

The commission determined that the District was not in compliance with the standard to ensure that all classified and management employees are systematically evaluated at stated intervals. The Commission also found that Grossmont College was out of compliance on its Distance Education and Correspondence Education policy; implementation of the assessment, collection and use student learning outcomes; and a requirement that course syllabi include student learning outcomes consistent with the official course outline of record. Efforts have already begun to address these compliance requirements.

I would like to express deep appreciation for the many faculty, classified professionals, administrators and community members who were involved in the reaccreditation process under the leadership of Cuyamaca College President Julianna Barnes, Grossmont College President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh and Vice Chancellor for Student and Institutional Success, Sean Hancock. I would also like acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our accreditation leads, Brianna

Hays and Marvelyn Bucky at Cuyamaca College, and Catherine Webb and Denise Schulmeyer at Grossmont College who were instrumental in this enormous effort.

It is undeniable that our employees are doing exemplary work to make our colleges high-quality and welcoming institutions for all students who come to us for their education. Thank you for your continued dedication to serving our students!

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