



Marketing & Communications Office

www.foothill.edu

February 6, 2012

Kurt Hueg, M.B.A., Associate Vice President

(650) 949-7645

HuegKurt@foothill.edu

SUBJECT: Accreditation Update

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to report that at its Jan. 10 meeting, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Western Association of Schools and Colleges, took action to reaffirm the accreditation of Foothill College. The college will complete a follow-up report by October 15, 2012, followed by a visit by ACCJC representatives, as part of this process.

During the past three years Foothill conducted a thorough self-evaluation process that led to the publication of the Institutional Self-Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, 2011, last July. The report was submitted to the Commission and a site evaluation team visited Foothill College Oct. 24-27, 2011, to review the self-study, gather evidence, and interview members of the college community. The evaluation team then submitted a report of its findings to the Commission, who in turn notified the college of its status in a letter dated Feb. 1, including five commendations and four recommendations for the college to address in a follow-up report. Each of these commendations and recommendations were cited and discussed by the evaluation team during its exit interview with the campus community Oct. 27. The full report of the evaluation team will be available on our college accreditation website shortly, and I encourage all members of the campus community to review it.

The Commission commended Foothill College in the following five areas:

1. "The college and district are well served by an exemplary board of trustees. The dedication of the board of trustees is remarkable, as is their vision and leadership in assuring high quality education and responsiveness to student and community needs. Board members are well informed, and their openness to discussing matters that impact student learning and institutional success is commendable."
2. "The college is commended for its ongoing efforts to improve its collective decision making processes. The college's dedication to improvement is reflected in its creative new integrated planning and budget model centered on student learning and its efforts to streamline and clarify the new system, which, although not fully implemented, shows great promise."
3. "The college is commended for its commitment to innovative partnerships that lead to strong community involvement, recognition, and support for the many high quality and innovative programs it produces."
4. "The college and district are commended for embodying their institutional value of environmental sustainability through numerous commitments and actions promoting conservation and stewardship of resources, ranging from board policies, major energy saving projects, sustainable building designs, student- and employee-led initiatives, and rich curricular and co-curricular endeavors."
5. "The college is commended for the high quality of its student body and student organizations. Student leaders are dedicated, professional, and actively engage in participatory governance processes to improve campus life and the learning experience for all students."

The Commission's recommendations are:

1. Institutionalize Integrated Planning—"To fully meet the Standards, the team recommends that the college institutionalize its new integrated planning model through a systemic cycle of evaluation, planning, resource allocation, implementation, and re-evaluation. Evaluations should be informed by quantitative and qualitative data analysis in both instructional and non-instructional areas. Particular attention should be paid to communication and dialogue about both the process and its results throughout the college." (I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.5, I.B.6, I.B.7, IV.A.3, IV.A.5)
2. Student Learning Outcomes—"In order to meet the Commission's 2012 expectation for meeting student learning outcomes Standards that require the identification and assessment of appropriate and sufficient student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, the team recommends that the college accelerate the assessment of program-level student learning outcomes, service area outcomes, and administrative unit outcomes, and use the results to make improvements." (II.A.1.c, II.A.2.e, II.B.4, II.C.2)
3. Comparable Support Services—"To fully meet the Standard, the college must ensure equitable access to all of its students by providing appropriate, comprehensive, and reliable student learning support services regardless of location or delivery method." (II.B.3, II.B.3.a, II.B.4, II.C.1.c)
4. SLOs & Faculty Evaluation—"In order to meet the Commission's 2012 expectation for meeting student learning outcomes Standards, the team recommends that the college and the faculty association work together to incorporate student learning outcomes in the faculty evaluation process." (III.A.1.c)

As we move forward in addressing these recommendations, I am confident that our planning processes, progress in implementing and assessing learning outcomes across all areas within the college and our commitment to ensuring students have access to support services regardless of location, will lead us to fully meeting the Commission's Standards. In meeting the Commission's expectations as outlined in recommendation number four, Foothill understands the need to address this issue as a district, and both colleges and district faculty leadership will be involved in responding to this recommendation.

The Foothill College community can be proud of its reaffirmation of accreditation, which is a process that involved the hard work of many people through the college and district. De Anza College was similarly reaffirmed for accreditation and will be writing a follow-up report and hosting a site visit.

For access to the Commission's action letter to Foothill College dated Feb. 1, and the evaluation team report, go to the Foothill College Accreditation 2011 website at <http://www.foothill.edu/president/2011.php>. The De Anza College letter is available at <http://www.deanza.edu/accreditation/>.

If I can answer questions or be of additional assistance, please call me at **(650) 949-7645** or e-mail me at HuegKurt@foothill.edu.

Sincerely,
Kurt Hueg, M.B.A.
Accreditation Liaison Officer
Associate Vice President, External Relations
Foothill College