



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 10, 2016

Dear Los Angeles Community College District Colleagues:

This afternoon our colleges and district concluded the comprehensive accreditation visit that included all nine colleges and the Educational Services Center (ESC) by ten (10) separate external evaluation teams. Chaired by Dr. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor at the Contra Costa Community College District, we welcomed and supported the visit by more than one hundred of our colleagues and fellow educators from community colleges from throughout California and Hawaii. The teams were here to assess and validate if and how we are meeting the standards of our accrediting body, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, commonly referred to as the ACCJC.

The "Exit Interview" has been conducted at each of our colleges and at the ESC that provided for us a general sense of the observations by the visiting teams. They are typically categorized as commendations and recommendations. I had the opportunity to visit with each college team chair this morning and each described the myriad of accomplishments and amazing things happening on our college campuses and throughout our district. You should be very proud.

The commendations shared at the ESC surrounded our forward-looking efforts in professional development, effective use of technology, our excellent internal audit functions, and maintaining an environment of continuous quality improvement.

There were also a number of recommendations, none of which surprised us or that we are not working on already to some degree. They include areas such as contributions toward investment in long-term liability, consistent practice in the hiring and evaluation of adjunct faculty, timely completion of evaluations, the effectiveness of the board policy review process, and the need for more stringent position controls.

I will be meeting with the college presidents and ESC senior staff to craft our way forward as we begin to address the recommendations, but I want to caution everyone that the reports we received today are preliminary in nature and are subject to change.

We won't hear anything back formally until early July 2016 after the ACCJC has reviewed the final reports and has determined our status of reaffirmation of accreditation and the corrective steps forward.

Accreditation at its heart is about quality and service to our students and communities, and I remain confident that we will all do well as a result of this visit, address the recommendations, and improve as an organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco C. Rodriguez".

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor