



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

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LBCC To Issue Accreditation Follow-Up Report **Accreditation Status Remains Unchanged During Warning Period**

Long Beach, CA— The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) recently presented its report based on the findings of the evaluation team that visited Long Beach City College (LBCC) from October 13-16, 2008. The 11-member team's purpose was to determine whether LBCC continues to meet accreditation standards based on its ability to achieve its stated purposes and its ability to meet commission standards for quality assurance and institutional improvement.

The Commission commended the college for the respect and support it has earned in the community as evidenced by the passage of two general obligation bonds and the welcoming environment and sense of purpose demonstrated by students and employees. Also noted was the College's commitment to increasing opportunities for students at the Pacific Coast Campus and for its leadership with the Long Beach College Promise. The team also commended the College on its Student Success Plan which integrates instructional and support services and demonstrates the college's continued commitment to student access, equity, and success of all students regardless of ability.

However, the ACCJC also issued series of nine recommendations to LBCC which included its Student Learning Outcome (SLO) assessment and Program Review process. Click [here](#) to view the entire text of the [cover letter](#) and [final evaluation report](#) from the Commission.

The college identified both areas and began implementing plans to address them as a result of its self-study process, which concluded in August 2008. According to LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley, "Faculty have been working to refine the learning outcomes for students completing the College's general education program and a new Integrated Student Learning Outcomes committee has been formed to support the systematic assessment of student learning outcomes across the entire college."

As a result of these recommendations, the college received a warning and must prepare a follow-up report to the ACCJC by October 15. ACCJC issues a warning when it finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's eligibility requirements, accreditation standards, or policy to an extent that gives concern to the Commission.



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“LBCC’s accreditation remains in force during the warning period and I am confident the College will meet the Commissions’ expectations by the October deadline,” said Oakley.

While faculty has long collected their own data on SLOs, accreditation standards require that this information be collected and disseminated in a manner that drives important resource allocation and decision-reaching activities throughout the college. According to Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Eva Bagg, who serves as the college’s accreditation liaison officer, “a task force was assembled to research the best resources available to support the collection and utilization of student learning outcomes information as part of its new program review process. Recommendations from the task force are now being handed to a team charged with implementing the new process and the technology that will automate program review. The implementation is scheduled to meet the requests of the accreditation team.”

Bagg added that many California Community Colleges have received warnings from the ACCJC recently. The U.S. Department of Education has pressed accrediting agencies for tougher accountability in recent years. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the federal panel that evaluates whether an accreditor deserves government recognition recently began citing the Western Association's Commission for Community and Junior Colleges for failing to ensure that its member colleges produced their required reports within two years. At the January meeting of the ACCJC, actions were taken on 55 institutions. LBCC was one of five colleges that received warnings. Only four of thirteen California Community Colleges had their accreditation status reaffirmed.

“If the College is successful in demonstrating that it is engaged in a course of action that will expeditiously bring the College into compliance with the standards and policies of concern, then the Commission will act to remove the warning and reaffirm the accreditation at its January 2010 meeting,” said Oakley.

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