



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 17, 2005

Dr. Rita Cepeda
Interim President
Compton Community College
1111 E. Artesia Boulevard
Compton, CA 90221

Dear President Cepeda:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 8 – 10, 2005, reviewed the Show Cause Report submitted by Compton Community College and the report of the Show Cause Visit Team which visited on April 14-15, 2005. After careful deliberations, the Commission took action to terminate the accreditation of Compton Community College, effective August 19, 2005. This date was chosen to permit the College to complete its summer session, for which enrollments have already begun. This termination of accreditation will not affect courses and programs that students have completed prior to August 19, 2005.

The Commission took action to terminate the accreditation of Compton Community College following a six-month period in which the college was placed on Show Cause and required to demonstrate that it had adequately addressed all of the concerns outlined in the Commission action letter of January 31, 2005. These concerns represented deficiencies in the College's compliance with eligibility requirements and standards of accreditation of the ACCJC and were identified by a Special Visit Team during their visit in July 2004.

The Show Cause Visit Team Report of the team that visited Compton College from April 13- 15, 2005 details the institution's progress in addressing these deficiencies, and also notes additional deficiencies, including continued issues with the functioning of the governing board, the lack of adequate student support services and leadership, lack of a comprehensive educational master plan and institutional research capacity to support such a plan, continued inadequacy of administrative staff, concerns about the qualifications of faculty and the lack of faculty evaluations, and the institution's continued significant fiscal deficiencies.

The Commission wishes to note that the Show Cause Visit Team Report was finalized after the college submitted its May 1, 2005 update to the Commission in order to take into account the institution's self-reported further progress from April 15 to May 1, 2005. Subsequent to finalization

of the report, the team and Commission received from the college and reviewed the FY 04 Audit. The auditors have stated:

“detailed records and certain prior year supporting data for accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities were not available for our audit. In addition, because of inadequacies in the District’s attendance accounting system, we were unable to form an opinion regarding the FTES amount reported.”

The auditors also stated:

“Since accounts receivable, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and FTES materially affect the determination of net assets, results of operations, and cash flows, the scope of our work was not sufficient to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on the financial statements referred to ...”

Also, subsequent to finalization of the Show Cause Visit Team Report, Commission staff, including a member of the Show Cause visiting team, interviewed Mr. Joel Montero regarding the draft findings of the FCMAT team that visited Compton Community College in May 2005 to evaluate the institution’s progress in areas primarily having to do with fiscal operations. One issue of significant concern noted in the FCMAT Report is that the college has not made plans to address the considerable fiscal liabilities incurred as a result of its past financial management and personnel practices, and appears to be unable at this time to adequately track expenditures through its general fund ledger.

The Commission concluded, on the basis of the College Reports, the Show Cause Visit Team Report, information contained in the Report on Audit of Financial Statements and Supplementary Information Including Reports on Compliance June 2004, and information obtained from FCMAT that Compton Community College is significantly out of compliance with Eligibility Requirements 3, 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 18 and Standards I.A and B, II.A, B and D, III.A, C and D, IV.A and B. References to these deficiencies can be found in the text of the Show Cause Visit Team Report.

Compton Community College has the right to request a review of the decision to terminate accreditation under ACCJC policies and to appeal the ACCJC decision to the WASC appeals board. Accreditation of the college continues during the period of review or appeal. I refer you to the ACCJC policy entitled *Review of Commission Actions* for further information regarding your rights to review and have enclosed that policy, as well as the WASC Constitution section that deals with appeals, for your information.

If the termination of accreditation will result in closure, the institution is mandated to address the requirement that it provide for teach-out of all programs and that it arrange for permanent storage of student records and to make them accessible to students and institutions seeking to facilitate transfer of credit or verification of degrees received from Compton Community College. I have enclosed the Commission’s *Policy on Closing an Institution* for guidance on how to secure student files and ensure that students will be able to use the records of their educational experiences at Compton Community College to continue their education at another accredited

institution. The ACCJC staff and the Department of Education staff may be able to provide assistance in identifying an institution or agency that will agree to maintain Compton Community College student records and issue student transcripts in perpetuity.

Enclosed is a final version of the Show Cause Visit Team Report (the title page has been corrected). Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff, including the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the report be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the report to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact the Commission staff. The College is reminded that if it fails to make this information readily and wholly available to its students, staff and the public, the Commission may do so without advance notice to the College. The Commission will take action to notify the U.S. Department of Education and the California Community College Chancellor's Office of its decision to terminate accreditation by copying this action letter to them.

I know this will be a difficult time for Compton Community College students and staff. You are welcome to call this office at your earliest convenience to discuss fulfilling the obligations of termination, the institution's right to review and appeal, or future plans for students and student records or for the institution. We are ready to provide assistance.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
Executive Director

BAB/bb

Enclosures: Final Team Report
Review of Commission Actions
Policy on Closing an Institution
Portion of WASC Constitution

cc: Mr. Gerald Burgess, Board President, Compton Community College
Ms. Rachele Sasser, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. Art Tyler, State Trustee, Compton Community College
Dr. Mark Drummond, Chancellor, California Community Colleges
Mr. John Barth, Accreditation and State Liaison, US DOE
Linda Henderson, US DOE San Francisco Office
Mr. Rick Allen, US DOE, San Francisco Office
Evaluation Team Chair and Members