ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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February 1, 2012

Dr. Mitch Capet
President
Reedley College
995 North Reed Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

Dear President Capet:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 10-12, 2012, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Willow International Community College Center Monday, October 17-Thursday, October 20, 2011. The Commission took action to **Defer Candidacy.** The Center may submit an addendum to the Application for Candidacy by October 15, 2012, demonstrating that Eligibility Requirement 4 and Recommendations 1 and 2 (below) have been addressed and the deficiencies resolved.

Eligibility Requirement 4 – Chief Executive Officer: The institution has a chief executive officer appointed by the governing board, whose full-time responsibility is to the institution, and who possesses the requisite authority to administer board policies. The institution informs the Commission immediately when there is a change in the institutional chief executive officer.

Recommendation 1: In order to meet the Standards and to assure adequate quality, the team recommends that institutional functions currently housed at Reedley College and functioning on behalf of Willow International, be established at Willow International prior to its application for initial accreditation. The Center must develop its own processes related to the development and oversight of instructional programs, including an academic senate, a curriculum committee, and the articulation function, and must develop its own processes for support of institutional planning and governance, such as program review and a Classified Senate. (Standards I.B.5, II.A, II.B.1, II.B.3.c, II.B.3.f, II.B.4, IV.A.2, IV.A.2.a)

Recommendation 2: This is District Recommendation 1 in the Reedley College and Fresno City College reports. As recommended by the previous accreditation team and affirmed by this visit, the State Center Community College District (SCCCD) must engage in continuous, timely, and deliberative dialogue with all District stakeholders to coordinate long term planning and examine the impact of the planned increase in the number of colleges and the future roles of the centers on the existing institutions. This includes creating, developing, and aligning district and college plans and planning processes in the following areas:

- District strategic plan,
- facilities,
- technology,
- organizational reporting relationship of centers,
- location of signature programs,
- funding allocation,
- human resources,
- research capacity.

(Eligibility Requirement 4 and Standards I.B.5, II.A, II.C.1.a-c, II.C.2, III.A.2, III.B.2.a-b, III. C.1.c, III.D.1.a-c, III.D.1.c, III.D.2.a, IV. B.1.b, IV.B.3.c)

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the Evaluation Team Report and this letter dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your institutional Self Study Report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Evaluation Team Report and the Self Study Report be made available to students and the public. Placing a copy on the College website can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, but we do expect that the report will be used to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,

Barbara A Beno

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Deborah G. Blue, Chancellor, State Center Community College District
Dr. Terry Kershaw, Vice Chancellor, Willow International Community College Center
Ms. Deborah Ikeda, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, State Center Community College District
Dr. Ronald Taylor, Team Chair