



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association
of Schools and Colleges*

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July 3, 2013

Dr. Melinda Nish
Superintendent/President
Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Road
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear President Nish:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 5-7, 2013, reviewed the Special Report submitted by Southwestern College. The purpose of this review was to describe the findings of the Grand Jury investigation of construction bonds and demonstrate how the College verifies the integrity of internal controls on construction funds. The Commission took no further action.

The Commission noted the steps Southwestern College has taken to verify the integrity of internal controls on construction funds. An external consultant was retained to conduct a focused special review which was published in March 2012. As a result of the review, the College developed recommendations and action plans to ensure institutional integrity in all business practices. All seven recommendations have been implemented, and eighteen of the twenty action plans have been completed. The Commission commends the College for its work to improve institutional business practices.

The Special Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the Report and this action letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Special Report and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. *Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the institution's home page.*

The next comprehensive evaluation of Southwestern College will occur in **fall 2015.**

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT
2013 JUL -8 AM 9:28

Dr. Melinda Nish
Southwestern College
July 3, 2013

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Mink Stravenga, Accreditation Liaison Officer
President, Board of Trustees, Southwestern Community College District