ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

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Memo to: **ACCJC Member Institutions**

From: **Barbara Beno, President** Barbara Beno

Subject: **ACCJC Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness**

Attached you will find a copy of the Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness, updated by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges/WASC in June 2011. This Rubric was first published in 2007 and has undergone two previous editorial revisions. The 2011 edition reflects language added to provide some additional detail.

Since 1994, the Commission's Accreditation Standards have required institutions to engage in a systematic and regular review of program quality as well as in short-and long-term planning, and an allocation of resources to assure that institutions achieve their stated mission and assess and improve institutional effectiveness. The 2002 Accreditation Standards added requirements that institutions become more intentionally supportive of student learning by defining intended student learning outcomes, assessing learning, and incorporating the results of assessment into decisions about institutional priorities and improvement plans.

The Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness was developed to assist colleges as they conduct self evaluation, and to assist external review teams as they examine institutional quality during accreditation reviews. The Rubric gives institutional members, evaluators, and the Commission a common language to use in describing the institution's practices in three key areas of the continuous quality improvement process – Program Review, Integrated Planning, and Student Learning Outcomes.

It is important to note that the sample behaviors described in each text box of the Rubric are not new criteria or standards for evaluation of an institution's quality, but rather are examples of behavior that, if characteristic of an institution, would indicate the institution's stage in the implementation of the Accreditation Standards, particularly Standard IB and important sections of Standard II and Standard III. The Rubric should be used in conjunction with the Accreditation Standards and the *Guide to Evaluating Institutions*, and *Guide to Evaluating Distance Education and Correspondence Education.*

The Commission has previously announced its expectations for institutional performance with regard to the practices described in the Rubric, as follows:

- The Commission expects all accredited institutions to be at the Sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement level in Program Review (Part1 of the Rubric) and Planning (Part 2 of the Rubric).
- At present, the Commission expects all accredited institutions to be at least at the Development Level or above in Student Learning Outcomes (Part 3 of the Rubric).
- The Commission expects all accredited institutions to be at the Proficiency Level in Student Learning Outcomes by fall 2012. The Commission will assess all member institutions during the 2012-13 year.

Institutions in the ACCJC membership widely share a commitment to the purposes of assessment – to improve student outcomes. The Commission hopes that institutional leaders will find the 2011 Rubric helpful as they assess their own institution's quality and work to achieve greater student success.

The Commission welcomes any ideas for improving the Rubric and for improving institutional practices in continuous quality improvement. [1] Please direct comments to accjc@accjc.org.

BAB/bd

Attachment

[1] The ACCJC's Task Force on Student Learning Outcomes met in spring 2011 to provide the updates contained in the 2011 Rubric.