



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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March 11, 2011

Dr. Betty Inclan  
President  
Berkeley City College  
2050 Center Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear President Inclan:

I am writing to you about new federal regulations which require that accrediting bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education must provide to the public a brief statement summarizing the reasons that the accreditor has placed an institution on Probation, Show Cause, or taken action to terminate accreditation. The regulations also require the accreditor to provide to the public the institution's official comments in response to the Commission's action if it wishes to provide one. The notice must be provided regardless of whether the public, or any member thereof, requests the information. These new regulations went into effect July 1, 2010, and apply to the Commission's January 2011 actions. (34 CFR§602.26).

The Commission is using a Public Disclosure Notice that has been designed in collaboration with the other regional accrediting commissions and will be relatively consistent across all accrediting regions. The Commission has decided to make the **Public Disclosure Notice** available to the public in pdf. on the institution's entry in the **ACCJC's Directory of Accredited Institutions**. A hotlink to the institution's website where the response is posted will also be available at the institution's entry in the Directory. All links will be removed when an institution is removed from Probation or Show Cause or one year after the institution's accreditation has been terminated.

Berkeley City College was continued on Probation at the Commission's January 2011 meeting. Consequently the Commission has created the attached Public Disclosure Notice for Berkeley City College. If you wish to make an official institutional response to the Disclosure Notice to be placed on ACCJC's Directory of Accredited Institutions, please send the statement and an appropriate hotlink to your institutional website to [accjc@accjc.org](mailto:accjc@accjc.org), and the Commission will post the link.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I'll be traveling next week and can be reached on my cell phone at 510-812-5447. Be sure to leave a number for a return call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Beno".

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

## ***Public Disclosure Notice***

### Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges



### **Public Disclosure Statement** for Berkeley City College

March 11, 2011

*This Statement has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries about accreditation status, consistent with the Commission's policies on public disclosure. It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Accredited Status for Berkeley City College. (This Statement has been reviewed by Berkeley City College. The institution's response to this statement can be found at: [www.berkeleycitycollege.edu](http://www.berkeleycitycollege.edu) and will be uploaded when received.)*

Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (the Commission or ACCJC) certifies that a college has been found to meet rigorous requirements for quality and that there are reasonable grounds for believing it will continue to meet them. The Commission's requirements can be found in the Standards of Accreditation on the ACCJC website at ([http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ACCJC\\_WASC\\_ACCREDITATION\\_STANDARDS2011.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ACCJC_WASC_ACCREDITATION_STANDARDS2011.pdf)). The accreditation process requires an institution to open itself to examination by a group of professionals who evaluate the degree to which an institution meets the Standards. The Standards set requirements for quality that cover many aspects of the college, including: instruction, student support services, library and learning resources, physical environment, technology services, financial management, institutional governance, institutional integrity and honesty, and achievement of institutional mission. Accreditation is awarded only after an institution demonstrates that it meets requirements. The Commission reviews the overall quality of each institution every six years. If an institution is found to need improvements, it may be required to undergo additional reviews and monitoring by the Commission.

### **Summary of Recent Commission Actions**

Berkeley City College was continued on Probation when the Commission, at its January 2011 meeting, reviewed the institution's adherence to the Accreditation Standards and policies as part of a Follow-Up review. The institution remains accredited during this period and is required to make improvements to address the Commission's findings of non-compliance.

The Commission took this action because it determined that the Peralta Community College District (Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College, and Merritt College) is out of compliance with the following standards or policies:

Standard III.D.1-3. “The institution relies on its mission and goals as the foundation for financial planning; to assure the financial integrity of the institution and responsible use of its financial resources, the financial management system has appropriate control mechanisms and widely disseminates dependable and timely information for sound financial decision making; and the institution systematically assesses the effective use of financial resources and uses the results of the evaluation as the basis for improvement.”

Standard IV.B.1 and 3. “The institution has a governing board that is responsible for establishing policies to assure the quality, integrity, and effectiveness of the student learning programs and services and the financial stability of the institution. The governing board adheres to a clearly defined policy for selecting and evaluating the chief administrator for the college or district/system; and in multi-college districts or systems, the district/system provides primary leadership in setting and communicating expectations of educational excellence and integrity throughout the district/system and assures support for the effective operation of the colleges. It establishes clearly defined roles of authority and responsibility between the colleges and the district/system and acts as the liaison between the colleges and the governing board.”

Standard IV.B.1.e. “The governing board acts in a manner consistent with its policies and bylaws. The board regularly evaluates its policies and practices and revises them as necessary.”

### **Current Status and Expected Activities**

Berkeley City College will be monitored by the Commission and required to submit a Follow-Up Report to the Commission in March 2011. The Commission will conduct a team visit to assess the institution’s compliance with standards, and the Commission will review both reports at its meeting in June 2011. If the Commission determines that Berkeley City College has demonstrated sufficient compliance with standards/policies, the Commission may act to remove Probation. If the Commission determines that sufficient progress to demonstrate compliance with standards and policies has not been made, the Commission may take further action as permitted under the Commission’s Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions, (available on the ACCJC website at <http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Accreditation-Reference-Handbook-August-2010.pdf>.)

### **Additional Information**

All institutions accredited by ACCJC are required to make external evaluation team reports and Commission action letters available to the public. This is usually accomplished by placing these documents on the college website. Colleges are invited to prepare a response to this notice, and this too may be posted on the website.

## **Helpful Resources for Understanding this Notice**

The following resources provide additional information that may be helpful in understanding the Commission's actions and the accreditation status of Berkeley City College:

- *Statement of Accreditation Status* for Berkeley City College, is available upon request from the Commission office.
- Commission's Standards are available on the ACCJC website at [http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ACCJC\\_WASC\\_ACCREDITATION\\_STANDARDS2011.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ACCJC_WASC_ACCREDITATION_STANDARDS2011.pdf).
- *Informing the Public About Accreditation*, published by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, provides additional information on the nature and value of accreditation. It is available at ([http://www.chea.org/public\\_info/index.asp](http://www.chea.org/public_info/index.asp)),
- Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions lists the actions the Commission may apply to institutions under review. It is available in the Accreditation Reference Handbook at <http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Accreditation-Reference-Handbook-August-2010.pdf>.