

## Accreditation Workgroup I: Improving the ACCJC Structure, Function and Relations

### Report to the California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officers

February 26, 2017

In March of 2016, sixteen individuals were appointed from California community colleges and other ACCJC member institutions to work with ACCJC commissioners to immediately undertake significant improvements in the structure and functioning of the Commission to address long-standing concerns of its members, giving special attention to the concerns noted by the U.S. Department of Education requiring compliance by October 2016. A status report of their progress on the three assigned responsibilities follows.

**Responsibility 1:** *Workgroup will meet beginning in April 2016 to develop a plan, with timeline and measurable outcomes, which will be submitted to the ACCJC Commission for action at its June 2016 meeting to institute changes for improvement.*

The team organized itself around five areas of focus: (1) Chair and Team Training; (2) Communication; (3) Member Evaluation of the Commission/Staff Leadership Assessment; (4) Process and Structure of College Evaluation Reports, Team Reports and Visits; and (5) Commission Operations. The team developed and submitted a report with more than 70 recommendations for improvement to the Commission at its June 8, 2016, closed session and its June 10, 2016, open session. Follow this link to see the preliminary report: <http://www.ccleague.org/files/public/accreditation/ACCJCPrelimRpt.pdf>.

**Responsibility 2:** *Lead and monitor ongoing implementation of changes.*

The team has met with ACCJC's Policy Committee and the Evaluation and Planning Committee three times (September 9, 2016; October 11, 2016; February 9, 2017) to review implementation of the recommendations. Progress is discernible. Some of the concerns are being addressed.

- Work is beginning in the development of a strategic plan.
- Several of the changes recommended for training have been implemented, and more are planned for the future.
- Planning for a conference is well underway and scheduled for April. It is clear that the financial status of the organization and other information requested in our report will be shared at the conference. They have also committed to adding a CFO to the Commission.
- Communication has improved, and the website is in development and will be debuted at the conference.
- The Evaluation and Planning Committee for the Commission is developing a crosswalk using the recommendations to measure and improve its self-evaluation process.

Although there is momentum to respond to the recommendations, the majority of them are unaddressed because of administrative changes at the ACCJC office.

**Responsibility 3:** *Provide regular updates of the group's activities and progress to ACCJC members and the CEOCCC Board, as well as formal quarterly progress reports.*

Reports on the work of WGI have been made through CEO Board Chair Brian King via email.

In conclusion, the Commission is taking the report very seriously, and Commission and WGI members are working collaboratively and cooperatively in this process, realizing that it will take considerable time for the recommendations laid out in the report to be implemented. The team will continue its work and will now refine the recommendations and develop a means for tracking progress on the implementation. Updates on accreditation can be found at <http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3882>.