



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

*Western Association  
of Schools and Colleges*

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD  
SUITE 204  
NOVATO, CA 94949  
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234  
FAX: (415) 506-0238  
E-MAIL: [accic@accic.org](mailto:accic@accic.org)  
[www.accic.org](http://www.accic.org)

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March 26, 2012

Dr. Jack Friedlander  
Acting Superintendent/President  
Santa Barbara City College  
721 Cliff Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Dear President Friedlander:

On January 31, 2012, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC), sent you a decision, consisting of the preliminary findings and conclusions of its Commission, subject to your institution's opportunity to respond. This decision followed a complaint, filed with ACCJC, on June 28, 2011, and a subsequent investigation of that complaint which included a visit by a special investigative team to your institution on November 9-10, 2011. Santa Barbara City College responded to "Members of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges" in a letter dated March 6, 2012, with attachments, which was received by ACCJC on March 7, 2012. On March 14, 2012, the Commission reviewed the response submitted by Santa Barbara City College on March 7, 2012 and made its final decision on the complaint.

After considering the institution's response and all of the other materials submitted earlier in this matter, the Commission acted to impose **Warning**, effective immediately, and require Santa Barbara City College correct the deficiencies noted in the January 31, 2012 decision. The College is required to complete a Special Report. The report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.<sup>1</sup>

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or policies to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet the Standards. The accredited status of the institution continues during the warning period. Warning is being issued for deficiencies identified in the January 31, 2012 Commission letter stating findings and conclusions, and those associated with Commission Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 below.

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions that will be preparing and submitting Special Reports to the Commission will want to review the new publication *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission*. This publication contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: ([www.accjc.org/college-reports-accic](http://www.accjc.org/college-reports-accic)).

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The Commission requires that the Special Report be submitted by **March 15, 2013**. The Special Report should demonstrate that the institution has corrected the Standards violations noted in the January 31, 2012 Commission letter to Santa Barbara City College, and also addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved all deficiencies, and now meets Accreditation Standards and Eligibility Requirements.

**Commission Recommendation 1:** In order to meet Standards, the Board of Trustees should receive additional and topic-specific training from “outside experts” on the appropriate roles of the Board and Superintendent/President, and the requirements of Standard IV. This training should be agendized and occur at a public meeting. The Board should further demonstrate compliance with these roles and responsibilities in its processes for Board evaluation and the Superintendent/President’s evaluation. (Standard IV.B.1.d, g, and j)

**Commission Recommendation 2:** In order to meet Standards, the Board should revise its code of ethics policy to align with Accreditation Standards and policies (and the legal requirements of the board), identify a procedure, and the person(s) responsible for enforcement of the policy. The Board should also rectify its own behavior to comply. (Standard IV.B.1.h)

**Commission Recommendation 3:** In order to meet Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards, the Board of Trustees should re-direct its focus to creating an environment for empowerment, innovation, and institutional excellence. Through established governance structures, processes, and practices, the Board should work with administrators, faculty, staff, and students for the good of the institution. The Board should focus its work toward ensuring that it works in a collegial manner to support the accomplishment of the college mission and improvement of student learning programs and services. (Eligibility Requirements 3, 4, and 21; Standards IV.A.1; IV.A.2.a and b; IV.A.3; IV.A.4; IV.A.5; IV.B.1; IV.B.1.a, b, e and j; and IV.B.2.a through e)

The report will amount to a complete institutional evaluation using Eligibility Requirements 3, 4 and 21, and Standards IV.A. all; IV.B.1.a, b, d, e, f, h, j; and IV.B.2. all.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/bd

cc: Mr. Robert Else, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Santa Barbara Community College District