Recommendations of the March 12-15, 2012 Visiting Team

The accreditation evaluation team makes the following 14 recommendations to fully meet each ACCJC Accreditation Standard and Eligibility Requirements.

**Recommendation 1: Mission Statement**

To improve effectiveness of Standard I.A Mission, the team recommends that the college establish a prescribed process and timeline to regularly review the mission statement and revise it as necessary. The college should use the mission statement as the benchmark to determine institutional priorities and goals that support and improve academic programs, student support services and student learning effectively linked to a realistic assessment of resources (I.A.3).

**Recommendation 2: Effective Planning Processes**

To fully meet Standard I.B Institutional Effectiveness, the team recommends the college to develop a strategy for fully implementing its existing planning process to look at each campus and site, examine revenues and expenses, and systematically address instructional program planning, staffing requirements, provision of student and library services, including facilities needs and competing priorities. The planning process should include clearly prescribed roles and scope of authority for all governance stakeholders involved in each component of the planning process (I.A.3, I.B.1, I.B.2, I.B.4, I.B.6, II.A.1, II.B.3.a, III.A.2, III.A.6, III.B.2.a-b, III.C.1.a-c, III.C.2, III.D.1.a-c, III.D.2.a-c, III.2.g, III.3, IV.A.3, IV.A.5, IV.B.1, and IV.2.a).

**Recommendation 3: Assessing Institutional Effectiveness**

To improve the efficacy of evaluation and planning to enhance institutional effectiveness, the team recommends that the college complete its work to fully implement its model for Program Review for all courses, programs and support services and advance its framework for defining and assessing Student Learning Outcomes for all courses, programs, support services and certificates and degrees, in order to develop and report performance metrics to measure institutional effectiveness, including information on noncredit students and specified indicators for the Annual Plan and the End-of-Year Assessment Report to the Board of Trustees (I.B.5 and ACCJC Rubric for Evaluation Institutional Effectiveness) (I.B.5).

**Recommendation 4: Student Learning Outcomes**

To fully meet Standard II Student Learning Programs and Services, the team recommends that the college identify the intended student learning outcomes at the course, program, general education, certificate and degree levels, develop and implement assessments of student learning, and analyze the results of assessment to improve student learning. The results of ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes should foster robust dialogue and yield continuous improvement of courses, programs and services and the alignment of college practices for continuous improvement (I.B; II.A.1.a, c, II.A.2.a-c, f, g-i, II.A.3, II.A.6, II.A.6.a, II.B.1, II.B.3, II.B.4, II.C.2; III.A.1.c; IV.A.2.b, IV.B.2.b).
**Recommendation 5: Student Support Services**

To fully meet Standard II.B Student Support Services, the team recommends that the institution systematically assess student support services using student learning outcomes and other appropriate measures to improve the effectiveness of its support services and develop as well as communicate its plans for the expansion of delivery and prioritization of student services that support student learning and achievement regardless of location or means of delivery (II.B.1, II.B.3, II.B.3.a,c,d,e,f and II.B.4).

**Recommendation 6: Human Resources Components of Evaluation**

To fully meet Standard III.A Human Resources, the team recommends that the evaluation of faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated student learning outcomes include a component that assesses the effectiveness in bringing about those learning outcomes (III.A.1.c).

**Recommendation 7: Human Resources**

To fully meet Standard III.A Human Resources, the team recommends that the college assess the adequacy of its current number of qualified classified staff and administrators and their appropriate preparation and experience necessary to support the institution’s mission and purpose. The college must ensure that human resource planning is fully integrated with the institutional program review, planning and budgeting processes and linked to the annual allocations of funding to maintain and improve institutional effectiveness (III.A.2, III.A.6, and I.B.4).

**Recommendation 8: Physical Resources**

To fully meet Standard III.B Physical Resources, the team recommends that the college incorporate all costs required to appropriately operate and maintain existing facilities, whether owned or leased, into its annual and long-term planning and budgeting processes and annually allocate the required human and fiscal resources to effectively and equitably operate and maintain physical resources at locations where courses, programs and services are offered (III.B.1).

**Recommendation 9: Technology Resources**

To fully meet Standard III.C Technology Resources, the team recommends the college develop a comprehensive plan for equipment maintenance, upgrade and replacement that is integrated with the institution’s budget allocation processes; and that the college continues to monitor its information technology systems and implement measures to more fully secure the technology infrastructure (III.C.1.a, c-d, III.C.2).
**Recommendation 10: Financial Planning and Stability**

To meet the Standard III.D Financial Resources, the team recommends that the college use its mission statement to inform its allocation of resources decisions to match annual, ongoing expenditures with ongoing financial resources. This action is needed to increase its reserves to a prudent level that will allow it to meet financial emergencies and unforeseen occurrences, to meet its operating expenses without excessive short-term borrowing, and to effectively manage the financial impact of its unfunded, long-term liabilities (III.D.1.c, III.D.2.c).

**Recommendation 11: Financial Integrity and Reporting**

To meet Standard III.D Financial Resources, the team recommends the college use the resources necessary to provide accurate and timely reporting of financial information; and to report this information to internal users so they may effectively participate in the annual and long-term planning and budgeting processes (III.D.1.d, III.D.2.g).

**Recommendation 12: Leadership, Governance and Decision-making**

To fully meet Standard IV Leadership and Governance, the team recommends that the district engage the services of an external organization to provide a series of workshops for all college constituencies, including the members of the governing board, the chancellor, faculty, staff, students and every administrator, in order to clarify and understand their defined roles of responsibility and delineated authority in institutional governance and decision making (IV.A, IV.B).

**Recommendation 13: Governance Structures**

To fully meet Standard IV.A Decision-making Roles and Processes, the team recommends that college leaders from all constituencies evaluate and improve the college’s governance structure and consequent processes used to inform decision making for the improvement of programs, practices and services. The college must ensure that the process does not create undue barriers to the implementation of institutional decisions, plans and initiatives (IV.A.1, IV.A.3).

**Recommendation 14: Effective Board Organization**

To fully meet Standard IV.B Board and Administrative Organization, the team recommends that the board act in a manner consistent with its policies and by-laws, assess and develop operating procedures, develop and implement a plan for board development, and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its policies and practices (IV.B.1.a, e-h).