On July 3, 2014, I received the ACCJC Notice to Cerritos College and External Evaluation Report. I am disappointed that the College was placed on Warning, but from the team’s exit interview, I had anticipated the action. We have begun to review the report thoroughly and develop strategies to correct the cited deficiencies.

The College has made significant improvements since the 2008 Accreditation Report was released and I am confident we can continue to make the necessary adjustments. Below is a Cerritos College press release regarding the Commission’s decision:

Cerritos College Remains Accredited; College Addresses Commission’s Recommendations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2014

Media Contact: Miya Walker, Director, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2292

NORWALK, Calif. – July 7, 2014 – The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) announced its decision to issue a Warning to Cerritos College in response to the College’s extensive 2013-14 Self-Evaluation Report. Schools accredited by the ACCJC are required to undergo a peer-evaluation to determine areas of improvement every six years. Warning is the least severe of the four sanctions that ACCJC can issue when an institution has not met or partially met standards. According to the report, areas of improvement for the College include: degree and certificate student-learning outcomes, and Board of Trustees leadership.

Cerritos College remains fully accredited and continues to provide strong academic programs and resources that prepare students for future careers and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The recommendations will not impact students earning credits toward degrees, certificates, transfers, and Financial Aid is also available for eligible students.

“Our programs are strong. The evaluation is a peer-review process that allows the College to determine more ways to increase efficiencies. The Commission’s actions remind us that our work to improve campus governance standards must remain a priority in order to better serve our students and the community,” said Dr. Linda L. Lacy, president/superintendent, Cerritos College.

In an External Review Evaluation Report, Cerritos College was commended for its:

1. Fiscal responsibility, strong budget resource management and accountability
2. Financial Aid process: “4 Easy Steps to Cash”
3. **iFalcon: Habits of Mind** initiative, focusing on student success strategies to close the achievement gap for under-represented students
4. **Community support** through the voter-approved General Obligation Bond
5. **Pre-qualification** protocols for vendors services, including construction
6. **The 7 Circles** model to create a more comprehensive learning environment for students
7. **Student Success Center** that provides a central location for student success resources
8. **Equal Employment Opportunity Plan** to increase workforce diversity

Cerritos College has until March 2015 to meet the Commission’s standards and will submit a Follow-Up Report. The College remains fully accredited.

“The Board of Trustees is aggressively planning and assessing processes to ensure that the Commission’s standards are fully met with comprehensive effectiveness,” said Carmen Avalos, president, Cerritos College Board of Trustees. “Our chief priority is to ensure that Cerritos College continues to serve our students and community with quality programs and strong leadership.”

For more information and updates about Cerritos College’s accreditation process visit [http://cms.cerritos.edu/accreditation](http://cms.cerritos.edu/accreditation). Download Frequently Asked Questions for more details.

View online release here: [http://cms.cerritos.edu/releases-2014/07/accreditation.htm](http://cms.cerritos.edu/releases-2014/07/accreditation.htm)

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda L. Lacy
President/Superintendent