June 30, 2009

Mr. William Farmer, Jr.
Acting Superintendent/President
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear President Farmer:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9 – 11, 2009, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by the College, the report of the evaluation team which visited Wednesday, April 29, 2009, and the information you provided. The Commission took action to accept the report, remove the College from Warning, and require that the College complete a Follow-Up Report by March 15, 2010. That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The Commission noted that a portion of Recommendation 3 has yet to be completed. Therefore, the Follow-Up Report of March 15, 2010 should demonstrate the institution’s complete resolution of the recommendation below.

**Recommendation 3: Planning, Resource Allocation, and Evaluation**
(Because the college has not met Recommendation 2 from the 2002 Evaluation Team Report, that recommendation is repeated here with additions relevant to the college’s current deficiency with the standards cited.) To meet the standards, the team recommends that the college make full use of the Office of Research and Planning to complete the development of a comprehensive planning and evaluation process that is guided by the college mission statement and integrates strategic, master, and operational planning; unit planning based on appropriate program review; and the allocation of institutional resources. Both the planning process and a delineation of responsibilities for the implementation of the process should be communicated clearly to the entire campus community. (IA.3, IB.4)(IVB.2.b)

The team further recommends that

- the college state its objectives in measurable terms in all its planning documents including the strategic plan and the unit plans (IB.2), and
- the college integrate planning for human resources, facilities, technology, and finances into the college plan and use the results of this evaluation to improve human resource processes, facilities utilization, the effective use of technology, and the distribution of financial resources. (III.6)(III.2.b)(III.2)(III.1.a)

The Commission also requires Cerritos College demonstrate that activities essential to the resolution of Recommendation 8 (below) have been sustained.
Recommendation 8: Leadership: Empowerment, Innovation, Collaboration, and Decision-Making
In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the college, through the leadership of the president, establish a climate of empowerment, innovation and collaboration resulting in a decision-making process that provides for a substantial voice for faculty and middle managers and meaningful input for students and staff in areas that reflect their responsibility. The team further recommends that processes for decision-making be regularly evaluated to assure their integrity and effectiveness. (IVA.1)(IVA.2.a) (IVA.5)(IVB.2.a)(IVB.2.b)

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. Cerritos College must correct the deficiencies noted by June 2010.

I have previously sent you a copy of the Evaluation Team Report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the Evaluation Team Report and this letter dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your institutional Self Study Report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the Evaluation Team Report and the Self Study Report be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the College library can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution’s educational quality and students’ success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Marilyn Brock, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Cerritos Community College District
Dr. Bill Scroggins, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members
Ms. Linda Henderson, USDE, San Francisco