



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2008

Dr. Carmen Fernandez  
President  
Northern Marianas College  
P. O. Box 1250  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear President Fernandez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 4-6, 2008, reviewed the Special Report submitted by the College. The Commission took action to accept the report and continue the College on **Show Cause**.

Northern Marianas College is required to submit a report on the findings of the 2007 audit at the time of the Show Cause Report due October 15, 2008. The Report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives. That report is to demonstrate that the College has resolved the following recommendations as contained in the Commission action letter dated January 31, 2008 and repeated below.

1. The College should review existing planning processes in order to establish and implement a shared vision for the future of the College with agreed upon priorities that:
  - a. Develops and implements budgeting and resource allocations guided by institutional needs for human resources and services;
  - b. Includes the two centers on Tinian and Rota in the planning;
  - c. Integrates all aspects of planning, evaluation, and resources allocation;
  - d. Is driven by college mission and goals;
  - e. Relies on faculty and staff participation;
  - f. Is well documented and widely distributed.(Standards I.B.2., I.B.3., I.B.4., I.B.5., I.B.6., II.A.1., II.A.2., II.B.4., II.C., III.A., III.B., III.C., III.D., IV.A., IV.B., including various subsections)
2. The team recommends again that the College institutionalize a coordinated, systematic process for evaluating program effectiveness. This process should include definitions of learning outcomes for all programs, a determination of program relationships to labor markets, and objective measures of student performance, which can inform and guide decisions to improve programs. (Standards I.B.1., I.B.3., I.B.4., I.B.5., I.B.6., I.B.7., II.A.1., II.A.2., II.B.4., II.C., III.A., III.B., III.C., III.D., IV.A., IV.B.2.a., IV.B.2.b.)



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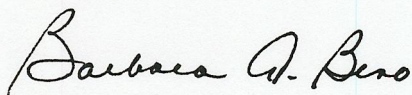
In her testimony at the Commission meeting, President Fernandez informed the Commission that the college's 2007 audit will be completed in July 2008. **The Commission also requires the College to include in its October 2008 Show Cause Report its responses to the 2007 external audit findings.** The Commission expects to receive a copy of the audit as soon as it is available to the College.

Show Cause is issued when the Commission finds that an institution is in substantial non-compliance with its eligibility criteria, standards, or policies or when the institution has not responded to the conditions imposed by the Commission. The Commission requires the institution to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. In such cases, the burden of proof will rest on the institution to demonstrate why its accreditation should be continued. If the loss of accreditation will likely cause an institution to close during the show cause period, the institution must make preparations for closure according to the Commission's "*Policy on Closing an Institution.*" The accredited status of the institution continues during the period of the show cause order.

The Show Cause Report and findings of the Commission representatives will be considered at the January, 2009 Commission meeting.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Debra Cabrera, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Board President, Northern Marianas College  
Ms. Linda Henderson, U.S. DOE