



**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

10 COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD  
SUITE 204  
NOVATO, CA 94949  
TELEPHONE: (415) 506-0234  
FAX: (415) 506-0238  
E-MAIL: accjc@accjc.org  
www.accjc.org

Chairperson  
E. JAN KEHOE  
CCLDIF

Vice Chairperson  
LURELEAN B. GAINES  
East Los Angeles College

President  
BARBARA A. BENO

Vice President  
DEBORAH G. BLUE

Vice President  
GARMAN JACK POND

Associate Vice President  
LILY OWYANG

Business Officer  
DEANNE WILBURN

ITAS  
TOM LANE

Administrative Assistant  
CLARE GOLDBERG

**RECEIVED**

**DATE: 7-5-07 (Th)**

via DHL

June 29, 2007

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 6-8, 2007, reviewed the Progress Report submitted by the college. The Commission took action to accept the report and continue the college on Probation. The college is reminded of the requirement, as contained in the in January 29, 2007 Commission Action Letter, that the college complete a Progress Report by **October 15, 2007** That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

The Progress Report of October 15, 2007 should provide the Commission with an update on the Rota and Tinian college instructional sites and focus on the institution's continued compliance with the Eligibility Requirement and resolution of the recommendations and as noted below:

**Eligibility Requirement #5 Administrative Capacity:** The institution has sufficient staff, with appropriate preparation and experience to provide the administrative services necessary to support its mission and purpose.

**Commission Recommendation 1:** Northern Marianas College must take appropriate steps to insure that the delivery system used to provide instruction to Tinian and Rota is completely reliable and works at all times, or discontinue offering classes via telecommunications. The College must also detail how it intends to provide educational services, including instruction and support services, that ensure the education obtained on the Tinian and Rota sites is the equivalent of that obtained on the main campus and meets all accreditation requirements.

**Commission Recommendation 2:** The governing board of Northern Marianas College must undergo sufficient training in accreditation requirements of the ACCJC.

**Team Recommendation 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)

**Team Recommendation 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.)

**Team Recommendation 3:** The college should provide quality assurance for instructional programs at distant sites and instruction through distance modalities. If alternative means of delivering equitable access to quality instruction is not available when technology fails, the college should suspend distance education at remote centers until new connectivity is established. (Standards II.A.1.b., II.A.2., II.A.2.d., II.C.1., II.C.1.a., II.C.1.b.)

**Team Recommendation 4:** The team recommends the college complete the cycle of developing, measuring, analyzing, and discussing student learning outcomes, and acting on the findings, as part of a continuous effort of improvement. (Standards I.B.1., II.A.1.a., II.A.1.b., II.A.2., II.A.3., II.A.5., II.A.6., III.A.6., III.B.2.b., III.C.2., III.D.3., IV.A.5., IV.B.2.b.)

**Team Recommendation 5:** The team recommends the college implement the employee evaluation processes that are in place in a timely and formal manner in order to assure the effectiveness of its human resources and encourage improvement. (Standards II.A.2.a., III.A.1., III.D., IV.A.1., IV.A.4., IV.A.4., IV.B.)

**Team Recommendation 6:** The college should pursue funding to renovate or replace aging buildings with facilities that are appropriate to meet the current and future needs of the college. Standards III.B.1., III.B.1.a., III.B.1.b., III.B.2., III.B.2.a., III.B.2.b., III.D.1.a., III.D.1.b., III.D.1.c)

The Progress Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this.

Dr. Carmen Fernandez  
Northern Marianas College  
June 29, 2007  
Page Three

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

Enclosure