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Marvin Martinez, *President*

July 23, 2012

Dear Harbor College community,

It is with a moment of pause and reflection that I inform you of the actions of Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) regarding our 2012 accreditation visit. We have been placed on probation status with 2 recommendations. I know this comes as a shock to us all as we received such positive feedback from our visiting team. I do not want to underscore the visit, and I also do not want us to forget about the 15 commendations we received as a result of the visit.

I want to emphasize that although we have been put on probation, we are still accredited and that this does not affect our interactions with state and federal agencies nor does it affect our ability to secure grants.

The reason colleges are placed on probationary status comes from colleges receiving previous recommendation(s) which were not resolved prior to the comprehensive visit. Unfortunately, we had received recommendations regarding our college planning process (including program review and student learning outcomes); and fiscal planning (at both the college and district level) during the 2006 visit. While we had made plans to address these items, which were recognized by the ACCJC in our 2008 follow-up visit, we did not reach the sustainable level which is mandated by ACCJC in our 2012 visit.

The District was cited for four recommendations which still must be resolved in order for Harbor's Probation status to be removed. The District will address these recommendations through the consultation process with the colleges and the Board of Trustees.

We are already taking steps to resolve the issues brought up by the two recommendations for Harbor College. I have reached out to ACCJC and am working closely with them to prepare our follow up report. We are also reconvening the Accreditation Steering Committee in order to prepare and execute a comprehensive plan to address the recommendations given to us by ACCJC.

But we cannot do this without you. I ask that you all, as a campus community, please come together through the shared governance process and service on college/district committees, to help resolve the recommendations given to us by ACCJC. One way to help is to join our reconvened Accreditation Steering Committee.

With your help, I believe that we can meet the ACCJC mandate and be able to fully address their recommendations. Although the road ahead may be difficult, through our hard work and determination we will get through this for the betterment of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marvin Martinez', is written over the typed name.

Marvin Martinez