

June 12, 2024

Dr. Elliot Stern  
President  
Saddleback College  
28000 Marguerite Parkway  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear Dr. Stern:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting June 5-6, 2024, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Saddleback College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College February 26 - 27, 2024.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years.**

### Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices for which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Saddleback College in the following areas.

**Standard I.A.1 (Commendation 1):** The Commission commends Saddleback College on its dedication to a student-centered environment driven by a palpable culture of collaboration and care that intentionally includes administrators, faculty, and staff in unified efforts to further student access, engagement, and success.

**Standard I.B.5 (Commendation 2):** The Commission commends Saddleback College for their extensive work in developing and implementing intuitive, meaningful, and responsive instructor-level equity dashboards that have led to innovations and improvements to increase equitable student outcomes.

### Compliance Requirements

None.

### Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

None.

### Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report<sup>1</sup> due on March 15, 2028. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2030 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2031.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Saddleback College undertook to prepare for this review. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report template available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact Dr. Mac Powell or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.  
President



Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.  
Chair

Cc: Dr. Julianna M. Barnes, Chancellor, South Orange County Community College District  
Ms. Tram Vo-Kumamoto, Accreditation Liaison Officer