

June 15, 2023

Dr. Anthony Culpepper
Interim President
Los Angeles Southwest College
1600 West Imperial Highway
Los Angeles, CA 90047

Dear Dr. Culpepper:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 7-8, 2023, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Los Angeles Southwest 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 March 6, 2023.

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 Los Angeles Southwest College in the following areas.

Standard IV.A.2, IV.B.6 (College Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for its commitment to strong and inclusive communication and decision-making practices that prioritize students' voices, transparency, and responsiveness to student and community needs. The results of this commitment can be observed in the College's equity work, instructional and learning supports, professional development, cultural activities, and robust community outreach.

Standard IV.D.5 (District Commendation 1): The Commission commends the Board and the District on the development and implementation of a Districtwide Framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice: Taking Action to Root Out Racism and Internalize Anti-Racist Policies and Practices at LACCD. The District has successfully built upon the strong legacy of social justice and equity work amongst the campuses, by embedding this framework into existing planning process, developing systems of accountability, and investing in local, regional, and statewide legislative advocacy to support statewide systemic reform to improve racial and social justice initiatives.

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 Report¹ due on March 15, 2027. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2029 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2030.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Los Angeles Southwest 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.

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review *Guidelines for Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/guides-and-manuals/>.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Mac Powell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Lori Gaskin', written in a cursive style.

Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.
Chair

cc: Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez, Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District
Dr. Lawrence Bradford, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Attachment