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ACCREDITATION COMMISSION LIFTS WARNING STATUS FROM TWO LACCD COLLEGES

Warning sanctions on both Los Angeles Mission College and Los Angeles Southwest College have been lifted and accreditation reaffirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The actions were taken on the basis of comprehensive evaluations.

The six recommendations given Southwest College to bring its program up to the standards of the ACCJC, part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, have all been met, according to the accreditation report

"The success of our reaffirmation of accreditation is a clear indication to the public of our college's commitment to meeting the highest standards of excellence expected of fully accredited institutions," said Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, outgoing interim president of Southwest College. "I want to commend the entire Southwest College family on this outstanding accomplishment. The work that we completed this year on our follow-up report to the commission was truly a college-wide effort and we are extremely pleased with the outcome. Our hard work really paid off."

Mission College was given 14 recommendations and has satisfied the commission's requirements for nine of them.

“I am unbelievably delighted by this action,” said Mission College president Monte Perez. “A follow-up report will be due March 15, 2015 on the remaining five recommendations, and I am happy to report we are making great progress on those as well.

“I want to congratulate all those who worked so hard for this outcome. I especially want to thank the Accreditation Steering Committee, Accreditation Liaison Officer Michael Allen, the shared governance committees and the College Council for moving Mission forward on a pace rapid enough to enable us to be removed from the warning list in just one year. We did it.”

Colleges are allowed up to two years to make improvements sufficient to lift the sanctions. Southwest College took the full two years. Because a warning is only the first step in the sanction process, a college’s accreditation is not affected.

“Both colleges are to be commended,” said LACCD chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, “for assuring the educational quality and fiscal integrity of our institutions, and for providing a tremendous return on the public’s investment of trust and resources.”

The nine recommendations that resulted in the progress required by the ACCJC included the development of metrics to rate student achievement and learning, and success in making the college a research-based institution.

Among the five remaining recommendations are better learning outcome assessment and a comprehensive program review for all student services.

“Both Mission College and Southwest College have taken the necessary steps to assure their students that the institution they are attending provides them the optimum environment for success,” said LACCD Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin. “The credit should go to the strong leadership and dedicated personnel on both campuses.”

About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The

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District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.