February 1, 2012

Dr. William Duncan  
Superintendent/President  
Sierra College  
5000 Rocklin Road  
Rocklin, CA 95677

Dear President Duncan:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 10-12, 2012, reviewed the Follow-Up Report submitted by the college. The Commission took action to require that the institution complete a Follow-Up Report. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.¹

The Commission asks that the Follow-Up Report be submitted by March 15, 2012. The Follow-Up Report should demonstrate that the institution has addressed the recommendations noted below, resolved the deficiencies, and now meets Accreditation Standards.

The team recommends that the college develop a long term debt financing plan to address the costs associated with implementation of GASB 45 requirements. (Standard III.D.1.c)

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. While Recommendation 5 was identified as a deficiency in the year 2007 Evaluation Team Report, the Commission has extended Sierra College’s time to correct the deficiencies associated with this Recommendation. However, the College must resolve these deficiencies by the time of the March 2012 Follow-Up Report and visit. Current GASB 45 requirements include funding of OPEBs.

¹ Institutions that will be preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-Up Reports, and Special Reports to the Commission will want to review the new publication Guidelines for the Preparation of Reports to the Commission. This publication contains the background, requirements, and format for each type of report and presents sample cover pages and certification pages. It is available on the ACCJC website under College Reports to ACCJC at: (www.accjc.org/college-reports-accjc).

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The Commission requires that you give the Follow-Up Report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the College make all reports and action letters available to students and the public by placing them on the institution’s website. The Follow-Up Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

**Commission Reminder:** The Commission expects that institutions meet standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission reminds Sierra College that it must be prepared to demonstrate that it meets these standards by fall 2012 (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, II.C.2, and III.A.1.c).

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution’s educational quality and students’ success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring institutional integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Rachel Rosenthal, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
    Board President, Sierra Joint Community College District