February 11, 2013

Dr. Rachel Rosenthal
President
Folsom Lake College
10 College Parkway
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear President Rosenthal:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2013, considered the Midterm Report submitted by Folsom Lake College. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team had been addressed by the institution and that the College had also provided an update on the self-identified planning agendas which were included in the Institutional Self Evaluation Report.

The Commission noted that Folsom Lake College, in its Midterm Report, responded to all nine recommendations from the comprehensive review and reviewed progress on self-identified plans for improvement. In its report, the College noted that it had increased efforts to meet the Commission’s expectation to be at the proficiency level for student learning outcomes (SLOs); that the SLO Coordinator now works extensively with online faculty to develop and assess SLOs in all online courses; and that the office of institutional research works with online faculty to report online course retention and success data compared with on-ground sections. It was reported that the College is up to date on substantive change proposals and will monitor and flag degree/certificate programs that surpass the 50% online threshold; and that SLO data is now part of the cycle of evaluation, planning, and resource allocation in instruction, student services, administrative services and president’s services.

The College also notes that the Professional Development Plan developed in 2010 includes assessment of professional development activities; that, with the assistance of the district office, needed changes to existing board policies were completed; that the district and the College established processes for facility and technology planning and funding, including identifying additional funding sources; that the College regularly evaluates learning support services; that the evaluation cycle had been amended to fully integrate with the College’s ongoing planning and evaluation cycle; and that Folsom Lake College’s College Participatory Governance and Collegial Consultation document was revised to increase campus wide understanding of the decision-making process.
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Institutions are expected to meet Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards and Commission policies at all times during the six-year review cycle and to provide evidence that they have addressed and resolved all recommendations made by the previous comprehensive evaluation team. At the time of the next regularly scheduled visit, the evaluation team will examine evidence and confirm that these College changes and improvements have been sustained.

The Midterm Report will become part of the accreditation history of the College and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your College report. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees.

The Commission also requires that the Midterm Report and this Commission action letter be made available to students and the public by placing a copy on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in disclosure, the Commission now requires institutions to post accreditation information on a page no farther than one click from the Institution’s home page.

Please note that the next comprehensive evaluation of Folsom Lake College will occur in Fall 2015.

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 integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.  
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. David Newnham, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
    Dr. Brian King, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District  
    President, Board of Trustees, Los Rios Community College District