

June 14, 2022

Dr. Pamela Ralston
President
Santiago Canyon College
8045 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92869

Dear Dr. Ralston:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 1-3, 2022, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Santiago Canyon 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 7-8, 2022.

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 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 Santiago Canyon College in the following areas.

Standards I.B.7, IV.A.2, IV.A.5 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for strong participatory governance processes and structures, which are based on a regular and systematic cycle of assessment, provided a solid and strong foundation for the College to navigate the challenges successfully and seamlessly for continued delivery of high-quality education and services as well as support for faculty and staff, in the midst of a global pandemic and significant leadership changes.

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. 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, 2026. The institution’s next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2028 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2029.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Santiago Canyon 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.

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

Sincerely,



Cindy Miles, Ph.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Mr. Marvin Martinez, Chancellor, Rancho Santiago Community College District
Mr. Aaron Voelcker, Accreditation Liaison Officer

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/>.