



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 31, 2006

Mr. Juan Vázquez
President
Santiago Canyon College
8045 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92869-4512

Dear President Vázquez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 11-13, 2006, reviewed the institutional self study report and the report of the evaluation team which visited Santiago Canyon College on Tuesday, October 18-Thursday, October 20, 2005. The Commission acted to reaffirm accreditation.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the team report and this letter dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study. This group should include the Chancellor, campus leadership, and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the team report and the self study report be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

The recommendations contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, the college is expected to use the report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

In order to synchronize the accreditation visits of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, Santiago Canyon College will produce an abbreviated Self Study Report in preparation for a visit in the **Fall of 2008**. In that self study, the Commission asks that the college respond thoroughly to the recommendations contained in the evaluation team report of fall 2005 and report on progress made on the identified planning issues identified in the 2005 Self Study Report.

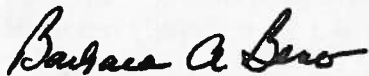
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The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its recent evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in that document be taken into account in the continuing development of Santiago Canyon College. The next evaluation of the college will occur during **Fall 2008** under the new schedule for the colleges of the Rancho Santiago Community College District.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you that federal legislation affecting accrediting agencies requires that accredited colleges conduct systematic assessment of educational outcomes (see especially Standards I and II). A further requirement is that accrediting agencies pay close attention to student loan default rates.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Edward Hernandez, Chancellor, Rancho Santiago Community College District
Ms. Mary Halvorsen, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Rancho Santiago Community College District
Dr. Terrence Burgess, Team Chair
Evaluation Team Members