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Accreditation Reaffirmed

This past Friday the college received notice from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that its accreditation status had been fully reaffirmed. Our confirmation letter, now posted on the college's website, was welcome news after our long self review process and the visit of our peer Visiting Team in October. In addition to those steps, in December, we also submitted a response to the Team's Initial Report, and I personally testified before the Commission in Sacramento in January.

When I arrived at the college early last year, we were deep into the development of our Self Study, but, on my first day as President, I discovered that our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) was stepping down ... which caused my heart to skip a beat or two! Even as thoughts of what to do next raced through my mind, Vice President of Student Services Robin Richards, stepped into the breach to serve as the replacement ALO. Her efforts over the next few months were almost heroic as we drafted volume after volume, drawing together the myriad voices of our college community into a singularly directed voice.

Side-by-side with Robin were our Faculty Co-chairs, Doug Hirzel and Sarah Harmon. Virtually every night as I left campus I would see one or the other of them at their desks pouring over yet "one more" draft, or

pasting new data into one appendix or another. Yet, their work was at the end of a long line of others' who had met as Standard Chairs and members of committees. There were seemingly endless numbers of meetings, conversations, and communications that came together to form among the finest Self Studies I have ever seen any college produce.

When the Visiting Team arrived, our college was fully prepared to put its best foot forward. From the members of our student leadership who led the Visiting Team on their initial campus tour, to all who met with Team members in formal meetings, to those who attended the Open Forums, to the staff who prepared the campus, served food, and shared their perspective about the college, Cañada shined.

In the wake of the Team Visit, we were informed that it's members were concerned about the currency of our Course Outlines of Record (COR). Immediately upon receiving this information, the Chair and members of the Curriculum Committee, the leadership of the Faculty Senate, and Vice President of Instruction Gregory Anderson, sprang to action to correct the deficiency and complete a revision of the college's COR policy. In addition, the effort to update all existing CORs, was accomplished over the Winter Holiday break due only to the dedication of the many faculty and staff who gave of their time and energy to go above and beyond expectations. We are all in their debt.

I am so proud of our campus, our faculty, staff, students, and administrators. You have my congratulations and thanks for everything you do, EVERY DAY, to make Cañada the truly remarkable institution we all know it to be. In the weeks and months ahead we will prepare a more formal response to the ACCJC's recommendations regarding our Course Outlines of Record. But, for now, let's celebrate our accomplishment! With that in mind, we have scheduled a celebration for next **Thursday, February 20 from 12:30 to 1:30pm in Building 8**. Cake and beverages will be served. All are invited!