



**ACCREDITING
COMMISSION
for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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January 29, 2010

Ms. Lorraine Cabrera
Interim President
Northern Marianas College
P. O. Box 1250
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear President Cabrera:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 6-8, 2010, reviewed the Midterm Report submitted by Northern Marianas College and the report of the evaluation team that visited October 26 through 27, 2009. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the previous evaluation teams 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 study.

The Commission took action to accept the Midterm Report. Institutions are expected to meet Standards 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.

The Commission notes that the report submitted by Northern Marianas College, and verified by the visiting team, provided statements that the college had fully resolved recommendations related to the inadequate services at the Tinian and Rota sites; Board training; review of existing planning and resource allocation processes; program review; evaluation of employees; securing funding for the renovation or replacement of facilities; development and implementation of a technology plan; development and implementation of a governance process that includes ongoing assessment of the process; and securing a steady revenue stream from the NMC legislature.

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, the team report, and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this.

Ms. Lorraine Cabrera
Northern Marianas College
January 29, 2010
Page Two

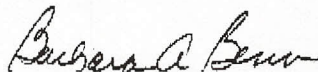
The Commission also acted to require a Special Visit to take place as soon as can be arranged. The Commission took this action because it learned of a series of events which may place the College out of compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Standards of Accreditation, and Commission policies. The Special Visit will determine whether the institution is still in compliance with the following Eligibility Requirements and Standards: ER 3 – Governing Board, ER 4 – Chief Executive Officer, ER 5 – Administrative Capacity, ER 21 – Relations with the Accrediting Commission, and Standards I.A, III.A and IV.A and B.

The Commission is also concerned that Northern Marianas College staff, in comments reported by the press, have claimed that the Midterm Report was false in its statements. This raises Commission concerns about institutional integrity and the institution's adherence to the Commission's Policy on the Rights and Responsibilities of ACCJC and Member Institutions in the Accrediting Process. The visiting team will therefore also examine the institution's integrity in its relationship with the ACCJC/WASC.

Please note that the next comprehensive evaluation of Northern Marianas College will occur in **Fall 2012.**

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,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Ms. Janet King, Board President, Northern Marianas College
Dr. Sherrill Amador, Team Chair
Mr. Ralph Wolff, President, ACSCU/WASC