July 11, 2016

Dear ELAC Community,

I am pleased to share with you the exciting news that ACCJC, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, has reaffirmed ELAC’s accreditation, based on the self-evaluation prepared by the College and a visit by a team of community college peers. As was the case with eight of the nine colleges in the district, the accreditation is reaffirmed for eighteen months, with a follow-up report due at that time. One of the district colleges was placed on warning.

In the final report from the visiting team and the ACCJC, the College received eight commendations, including “being the cultural, social and educational center of the community” and “creating a welcoming environment, where students, staff, and faculty thrive in an enriched academic setting.”

The College also received three compliance recommendations, which must be addressed in the follow-up report due in September, 2017, and three improvement recommendations, which will be addressed in our midterm report, due in 2020.

The response to the compliance recommendations will provide an update regarding our progress on the following issues:
- the need for a more detailed analysis of our student achievement and SLO results
- the development of a “substantive change” report for our South Gate Educational Center that ensures sufficient staff and comprehensive services are in place and operating effectively for students enrolled in classes at that location
- the finalization of a plan that ensures the technological infrastructure, quality, and capacity are adequate to support the College’s mission.

Under the leadership of Barbara Dunsheath, Faculty Accreditation Chair; Carol Kozeracki, Accreditation Liaison Officer; and the many faculty, staff, and students who worked on the self-evaluation report and met with the visiting team in March, the College was able to highlight the outstanding work being done across the campus and the many activities underway to serve our students. We are extremely proud of this result and we remain committed to continuing our efforts to improve student success on an ongoing basis.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved!

Sincerely,

Marvin Martinez
President