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for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2010

Dr. Phoebe Helm
Superintendent/President
Hartnell College
411 Central Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear President Helm:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9-11, 2010, reviewed the Midterm Report submitted by Hartnell College. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team 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 Self Study Report.

The Commission took action to accept the Midterm Report. Institutions are expected to meet Accreditation 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. This will be confirmed at the time of the next regularly scheduled visit.

The report submitted by Hartnell College was in an alternative format from the traditional Midterm Report. It provides a comprehensive overview of each Standard. In its review of Standard I, the College includes an update on the mission statement and instructional effectiveness. The report, *Salinas Valley Vision*, serves to guide some of the planning processes linking external needs to internal action plans. The College's planning also includes the annual *Accountability: Focus on Results* document. The overview of Standard II includes evidence of student learning outcomes assessment and information on planning processes which lead to continuous improvement using one specific instructional area with data analysis as an example. In addition, the report's provides overview on student support services and the library. The section addressing Standard III provides an update on human resources including reference to the overall quality and qualifications of faculty and staff, policies, diversity, and development. The report also addresses physical resources including the \$131 M bond program and progress on campus renovations and technology resources. The report documents the link between technology resources and student success. Financial resources is presented including the budget difficulties the College faces, and a long-term financial plan is included as an appendix. It includes projections for reserves exceeding the 5% requirement. The Midterm Report addressed Standard IV but with a bit less detail. Each section of the report contains "next step" planning items demonstrating activities which, when implemented, will lead to continuous improvement.

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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 and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include the 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.

Please note that the next comprehensive evaluation of Hartnell College will occur in **Spring 2013**.

Commission Concern: The Commission expects that institutions meet standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission therefore requires that the College demonstrate in its next comprehensive evaluation report that the College has met these standards. (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, and II.C.2)

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 institutional integrity, effectiveness, and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Suzanne Flannigan, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, Hartnell Community College District