

April 14, 2017

Dr. Joel Kinnamon  
Superintendent/President  
College of the Desert  
43-500 Monterey Avenue  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Dear Superintendent/President Kinnamon:

Dr. Lori Bennett, President of Clovis Community College, has been appointed as team chair for the External Evaluation Visit to College of the Desert scheduled for Monday, October 2-Thursday, October 5, 2017. If you identify any conflict of interest as described in the ACCJC Policy on Conflict of Interest for Commissioners, Evaluation Team Members, Consultants, Administrative Staff, and Other Commission Representatives (attached), please let me know as soon as possible.

We are in the process of constructing a team and will provide you with a team roster as soon as we have completed our selections.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



G. Jack Pond  
Vice President

GJP/tl

cc: Dr. Annebelle Nery, Accreditation Liaison Officer

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Dr. Joel Kinnamon  
Superintendent/President  
College of the Desert  
43-500 Monterey Avenue  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Dear Superintendent/President Kinnamon:

I am writing to provide information about the upcoming external evaluation visit to your campus in fall 2018. College of the Desert is being evaluated against the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies.

As your College staff learned during Self Evaluation training, the accrediting process will focus attention on evidence that the institution meets each of the Commission requirements listed above. The documentary evidence provided to the external evaluation team should be organized so that it is easily accessible and available in the campus room set aside for the team. Colleges are required to provide documentation in an electronic format. Please give the team members access to this documentation on USB Flash drive before they arrive on campus.

The external evaluation team may ask for any specific documentation or information from the College during the visit. The *Guide to Evaluating and Improving Institutions* is intended to provide suggestions of evidence that could be used to address each Accreditation Standard. In 2011 the Commission developed a guide for external evaluation team members to use for Standard III.D – **Financial Resources**. A copy of the Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review is enclosed.

I also want to remind you that external evaluation teams must examine the quality of educational programs and student support services provided at off-campus sites. U.S. Department of Education regulations require all off-campus sites that offer 50% or more of a program, degree or certificate be visited by the external evaluation team.

Teams must also have appropriate access to courses, programs and student support services provided through electronic media, i.e., distance or correspondence education. The team will review them before the date scheduled for the campus visit. Please make sure you arrange for electronic access to these programs and services.

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I anticipate your accreditation visit will provide both a rewarding validation of the College of the Desert's strengths and helpful recommendations for continuous quality improvement.

Sincerely,



G. Jack Pond  
Vice President

GJP/tl

cc: Dr. Annebelle Nery, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure

**Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review  
Supplemental Guidelines for Standard III.D for CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

ACCREDITATION QUESTIONS	EVIDENCE
Has the college received an unmodified opinion? Has the college received any qualified or adverse opinions or disclaimer of opinions in audit reports in the last 3 years from district, state or federal programs? Has an audit report included an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph?	Audit Reports (last 3 years)
Has the college implemented all audit findings and recommendations? Have there been the same recommendations for more than one year? What is the auditor's response to the management actions taken?	Management response to auditor's findings and recommendations (last 3 years) CCFS 311 (last 3 years)
What is the institution's unrestricted fund balance and reserves and how has it changed over the last three years?	CCFS 311Q (Most recent quarter) Fiscal Trend Analysis of 311 Data (Can be accessed online at CCCCCO website.)
Does the College maintain a minimum 5% unrestricted reserve of cash or cash equivalent?	Audit Report
Has the State Chancellor's Office had to intervene regarding fiscal stability or compliance?	Letter of agreement between State Chancellor's Office and District, Chancellor's Office communication document, Fiscal Health Certificate
Does the college have long term debt financing?	Audit Report
Does the institution have an obligation for post retirement health benefits (OPEB), compensated absences, and other employee related obligations? If it does, has it done the actuarial study and identified the liability? Is there a plan for funding them?	Actuarial study for post-retirement health benefits, collective bargaining agreements, board policies, actuarial report, reserve reports. Institutional Plan for funding the liability
Does the institution have limits on accrual of unused vacation time? Compensatory time? Is the institution enforcing its policy on limits?	Leave Accrual Policy in Contractual Agreement and Labor Agreements, Board Policies, Human Resource Records
Is the fiscal entity self insured for health benefits, workers compensation, and unemployment? How are reserve levels set?	District Self Certification
Does this fiscal entity have obligations for future total compensation expenditures driven by collective bargaining agreements or other agreements (corporate-buy outs, management/employee agreements, etc.) If so, what are they? Of what significance are they? What is the plan for funding these future obligations?	Current Bargaining agreements District Funding Plan Executive Officer agreements regarding buy-outs and other conditions of employment



**Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review  
Supplemental Guidelines for Standard III.D for CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

ACCREDITATION QUESTIONS	EVIDENCE
Does the institution and the foundation have an agreement/contract on the role of the foundation? Does it require that the foundation have an independent audit?	Copy of the Agreement Copy of Foundation audited financial statements (last 3 years) Required Continuing Disclosure submittal
Does the college or district have a Prop 39 bond fund?	Copy of minutes from Bond Oversight Committee Copy of audit reports from the last 3 years
Does the college have policies and procedures regarding purchasing? Are they being followed?	Self Certification Policies
Will additional buildings be opened in the next 2-3 years? Is there a plan to fund staff, utilities and operating expenses associated with additional facilities coming online within the next 2-3 years?	Copy of the most current Facility Master Plan Funding Plan Educational Master Plan Total Cost of Ownership Plan Staffing/Human Resources Plan
Is there evidence that planning integrates fiscal and other resources?	Internal documents
Is there evidence that the institution monitors student financial aid obligations such as student loan default rates and compliance with federal regulations?	Annual Financial Report, Financial Aid Compliance Reports

Edited: February 2, 2015

