

January 25, 2019

Ms. Suzette Robinson, Chancellor  
Leeward Community College  
96-045 Ala Ike  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Chancellor Robinson:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 9-11, 2019, reviewed the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Leeward Community College. The Commission also considered the External Evaluation Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its onsite visit to the College October 15-18, 2018.

The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College continues to meet ACCJC's Eligibility Requirements, Commission Policies, and Accreditation Standards (hereinafter, the Standards). Upon consideration of the written and oral information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for seven years and require a Follow-Up Report, due no later than March 2, 2020.**

#### Commendations

The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Leeward Community College in the following areas. Commendations signify practices for which the Commission believes the institution has exceeded standards.

##### **Commendation 1**

The team commends the college for its mission, which emphasizes student support, quality learning opportunities and open access and includes a special commitment to Native Hawaiian students. The college embraces its mission, in planning and action, as evidenced by a consistent integration of the mission's core values throughout the curriculum, services and culture of the college. (I.A)

##### **Commendation 2**

The team commends the College for developing programs and curricula that accelerate student progress toward college-level courses, particularly in English and mathematics. (II.A.4)

##### **Commendation 3**

The team commends the College for the development of the innovative learning support program "The Hub", which facilitates student success by using Computer Science students to provide technology assistance to students in a Help Desk setting. (II.B.1)

##### **Commendation 4**

The team commends the Student Government for their organization and engagement of

students in a wide range of creative, informative and meaningful activities and for actively encouraging student participation in college committees. (II.C.4, IV.A.2)

**Commendation 5**

The team commends the College for its leadership in the development and implementation of guided pathways. (II.C.5)

**Commendation 6**

The team commends the College for its dedicated and collaborative support of professional development, with an emphasis on supporting faculty in instructional pedagogy, teaching with technology and encouraging effective practices by modeling such practices during training sessions. (III.A.14, III.C.4)

**Commendation 7 (System)**

The University of Hawai'i Community College System is commended for its island-centered mission in identifying new programs and for its successful system-wide implementation of technology across the system to support program planning and tracking in clarification of students' academic pathways. (IV.D.5)

Compliance Requirements

The Commission also determined that the College must demonstrate compliance with the following Standard, as identified in the College recommendations. This demonstration must be addressed in the required Follow-Up Report.

**Standard I.B.7 (Recommendation 1):** In order to meet the standard, the College should establish a clear cycle to regularly evaluate and update its policies and practices.

In accordance with federal regulations, compliance requirements must be addressed and the institution must demonstrate that it aligns with Standards within two years<sup>1</sup>.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Team Report noted Recommendations 2 and 3 (college recommendations) and 4 (UHCC System recommendation) for improving institutional effectiveness. These recommendations do not identify current areas of deficiency in institutional practice, but consistent with its mission to foster continuous improvement through the peer review process, the Commission encourages institutions to give serious consideration to the advice contained in the peer reviewers' recommendations. The Commission anticipates that you will bring them and the team's full report to the attention of your institution for serious consideration. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the peer review team's improvement recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, refer to the Commission policy on "The Two-Year Rule and Extension for Good Cause" on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/eligibility-requirements-standards-policies/>.

Next Steps

The Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Report represent the best advice of the peer review team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve or to come into compliance. A final copy of the Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Team Report, and this letter to those who were signatories of the ISER and that you make these documents available to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a Web page no more than one click from the institution's home page. In keeping with ACCJC policy, the Commission action will also be posted on the ACCJC website within 30 days of the date of the Commission's action.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Leeward Community College undertook to prepare for this evaluation. These efforts confirm that peer review can well serve the multiple constituencies of higher education by both ensuring and encouraging institutional quality and effectiveness.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Commission's action, please feel free to contact me or the vice president that has been assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Winn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winn, Ed.D.  
President

RW/tl

cc: Dr. John F. Morton, Vice President for Community Colleges  
Ms. Della Teraoka, Accreditation Liaison Officer