

## **California Community College CEOs and Accreditor to Partner in Accreditation Reform**

April 5, 2016 – The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and the California Community Colleges' Chief Executive Officers (CCCCEOs) announced today they will be working together on ideas for improving the accreditation process in the region.

“The presidents of colleges in our region and the Chancellors who lead districts are key participants in ACCJC’s process of changing its accreditation practices to align with new Accreditation Standards that went into effect January 1, 2016 and with the evolving realities of higher education”, said ACCJC President Dr. Barbara Beno.

At a meeting last week between Dr. Beno and two representatives of the CEO group (CCCCEO President-elect and Los Rios Community College District Chancellor Brian King and Contra Costa Community College District Chancellor Helen Benjamin) all agreed that collaboration and openness to change will benefit educational quality in the region and ultimately, the students. “Our students are the focus of this work”, said Chancellor Benjamin.

On March 14, the CEOs of California’s community colleges held a statewide meeting that included a focused discussion of the future of accreditation. One outcome of the discussion was the formation of two workgroups to make specific recommendations for improvements to ACCJC at its upcoming June meeting. The California presidents and chancellors organization has identified a group of colleagues who are knowledgeable about accreditation to develop recommendations.

“By policy, ACCJC relies on communications with the institutional CEOs to discuss matters of policy and practice. The CEOs will provide the broad perspective needed to help ACCJC continue its work to make appropriate changes in practice to align with new Standards and with the needs of the region,” said Commission Chair Dr. Steve Kinsella, President of Gavilan College.

Since it adopted new Accreditation Standards in June 2014, the Commission has continued to review and update its practices and to welcome ideas and input from its member institutions. ACCJC has constituted planning groups that include faculty and administrative representatives from its member institutions across the Western Region.

ACCJC accredits private and public colleges in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific region.