

June 23, 2026

Dr. Angelica L. Suarez
President
Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear Dr. Suarez:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting June 3, 2026, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by Orange Coast College. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Report (Team Report) prepared by the peer review team that conducted its site visit to the College February 25-26, 2026.

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 information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation for eight years.**

Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices for which the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of Orange Coast College in the following areas.

Standard 1.3, 1.4, 2.9 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the Institution for establishing a strong foundation for continuous improvement through robust institutional planning structures and disaggregated data review and analysis in support of student success and institutional effectiveness.

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Peer Review Team Report noted Recommendation 1 (Standard 2.6, *Policy on Distance Education and on Correspondence Education*) for improving institutional effectiveness. Improvement 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 these recommendations and the advice contained in the Peer Review Team Report. In the Midterm Report, the College will include actions taken in response to the improvement recommendations.

Next Steps

The Peer Review Team Report provides details of the peer review team's findings, including areas of noteworthy practice. The guidance and recommendations contained in the Peer Review Team Report represent the best advice of the team at the time of the visit but may not describe all that is necessary for the college to improve. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The Commission requires that you disseminate the ISER, the Peer Review Team Report, and this letter to all campus constituencies and the public by placing copies on the College website within seven business days of your receipt. Please note that in response to public interest in accreditation, the Commission requires institutions to post current accreditation information on a webpage 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on March 15, 2030. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the fall term of 2033 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the spring term of 2034.

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

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review the Accreditation Handbook and applicable report template available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.

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

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, ornate capital 'K' followed by the first name 'Kathleen' and the last name 'Burke' in a cursive script.

Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.
Chair

cc: Dr. Whitney Yamamura, Chancellor, Coast Community College District
Dr. Sheri Lynne Sterner, Accreditation Liaison Officer