

January 27, 2022

Dr. Rosevonne Pato
President
American Samoa Community College
P. O. Box 2609
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Dr. Pato:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting January 12-14, 2022, reviewed the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) and evidentiary materials submitted by American Samoa Community 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 September 27-30, 2021.

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

Commendations

Commendations signify institutional practices the Commission believes exceed Standards. The Commission recognizes the exemplary performance of American Samoa Community College in the following areas.

Standard I.A.1, I.A.3, II.A.7 (Commendation 1): The Commission commends the College for its commitment to its Mission and the alignment with institutional core values of respect for tradition and culture by embracing and sustaining their heritage, traditions, language, and through intentional integration of cultural practices into curriculum and services that models and reinforces time-honored rituals.

Compliance Requirements

None.

Recommendations for Improving Institutional Effectiveness

The Peer Review Team Report noted Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 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 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 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.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on October 15, 2025. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2028 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2028.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that American Samoa Community College undertook to prepare for this review. These efforts confirm that peer review can serve well 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 Dr. Cindy Miles or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Cindy Miles, Ph.D.



Sonya Christian, Ed.D.

cc: Mr. Sonny Leomiti, Accreditation Liaison Officer

¹ Institutions preparing and submitting Midterm Reports, Follow-up Reports, Special Reports, or Teach-out Plans/Agreements to the Commission should review *Guidelines for Preparing Institutional Reports to the Commission*, found on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/guides-and-manuals/>.