

Agrella Letter to ACCJC

October 11, 2013
Accrediting Commission for
Community and Junior Colleges
10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite
204 Novato, California 94949

Dear Dr. Beno:

I am writing this letter from the perspective of having nearly 30 years of experience as a California Community College president during which I have had the privilege and honor of being the chair of a number of accreditation team site evaluations, have gone through numerous site evaluations of my own institutions, and now as the Special Trustee for City College of San Francisco.

During my tenure in California I have both observed and been a part of the evolution of the accreditation standards and firmly believe in the peer accreditation process. The standards, as they are now written and enforced, in my opinion provide excellent benchmarks for institutional measures of quality and performance. By design they encompass the totality of the institution with the intent of constantly striving for **continuous quality improvement** in all areas.

Hittelman Comment Scott-Skillman letter to Beno

How to write a letter in support of ACCJC - who provided the framework?

How to help undermine the college you are supposedly working for:

Express your view as a person with experience in the process of accreditation.

Note that both have a long history of being in bed with the ACCJC

During your "tenure" what are your thoughts with regard to the standards?

Mention "continuous quality improvement"

October 17, 2013
Dr. Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President
Accrediting Commission for
Community & Junior Colleges
WASC
10 Commercial Blvd Suite 204
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Dr. Beno:

This letter is written to express my professional views on the accreditation process, its standards and eligibility requirements for community colleges. I have been served as a very proud educator in the California Community College system for 43 years and consider my experiences and successful career as having been shaped by core values and fundamental principles aligned with accreditation standards of the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

During my 43 year tenure as an educator I have acknowledged the standards set forth by the Accrediting Commission knowing all too well that I also have opportunity for input into the various standards by way of the Commission's feedback/review of standards process. I have served as a member and chair on college-wide accreditation committees at five different institutions. In addition, I have served on numerous accreditation team site evaluations as a faculty member, administrator, and college president. As the founding president of a new community college, I worked with the

Accrediting Commission, state and federal agencies embracing numerous standards and procedures to ensure a smooth transition of the process to obtain accreditation status.

I have always embraced accreditation standards as **continuous quality improvement** for institutions, programs, and services. And, I appreciate the fact that the review process has a peer review component. I have participated in many discussions throughout four decades focused on the accreditation standards. I must say the transformation of the standards has improved dramatically over the years. Today, more than ever the standards are clearer and provide a very adequate 'blueprint' for quality education to occur at our community colleges. The accountability and responsibility institutions have to their communities, funding sources, and especially their students command continuous assessment with valid measures/standards.

As the Special Trustee of City College of San Francisco, I feel I must comment on the controversy that certain third parties have brought to the college's current accreditation status of "Show Cause". **Nothing that has been documented in the site evaluation team reports has been found to be without merit.** Although there may be some minor areas of disagreement, overall the site evaluation reports have been found to be accurate and, unfortunately in some areas, even understated in the depth of

Explain your connection with CCSF

Mention that everything said about CCSF is true

Mention that the problems were even worse than the visiting team uncovered

I accepted the position of interim chancellor of City College of San Francisco because of my extensive experience with accreditation. City College's "Show Cause" accreditation status in my opinion is justified. Unfortunately much of the needed improvements were not disclosed through the self-evaluation. And, the site evaluation reports, while **accurate**, in my opinion were limited in scope and magnitude of the issues needing improvement. There is very definitive room for improvement at City College in many areas that will positively ensure a more viable and

problems the college faces. The peer review accreditation process revealed problems that **are now being addressed to assure the long term viability of the college.**

On behalf of City College of San Francisco, as well as my former institutions, I want to thank you and your staff for the cooperation we have received and willingness to meet with us to review the standards, policies, and procedures of the Commission to assist in maintaining CCSF's accreditation.

Yours Truly,
Robert F. Agrella Special Trustee

Say something about how CCSF is improving under your leadership.

Thank the staff for their cooperation and support.

sustainable institution capable of delivering quality education in a highly effective and efficient environment. **The renewed effort of the college to utilize the accreditation standards as benchmarks is clearly transforming this institution.**

I realize the years of transition with the accreditation standards have created diverse opinion and criticism of the worthiness of the accreditation review process. Third party voices have opportunity through the standards review process to voice concern and should do so accordingly. I have appreciated the support and guidance the Accrediting Commission has extended to me throughout the years, and especially now as I work with CCSF to maintain its accreditation.

Sincerely,
Thelma Scott-Skillman, Ed.D. Interim
Chancellor