

June 23, 2026

Mr. Val M. Garcia
Superintendent/President
College of the Desert
43-500 Monterey Avenue
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting June 3, 2026, reviewed the Follow-Up Report and related evidentiary materials submitted by College of the Desert. The Commission also considered the Peer Review Team Follow-Up Report prepared by the follow-up team that visited the institution on April 6, 2026. The purpose of this review was to determine whether the College has addressed the deficiencies identified by the peer review team during the Fall 2024 comprehensive visit and demonstrated compliance with the Standards cited in the Commission's January 21, 2025, Action Letter.

Upon consideration of the information noted above, the Commission acted to **Reaffirm Accreditation** for the remainder of the cycle. The Commission finds that College of the Desert has addressed the compliance requirements, corrected deficiencies, and meets Standards **IV.C.2**, **IV.C.10**, and **IV.C.12**. The Commission requires that you disseminate the Follow-Up Report, 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. A final copy of the Peer Review Team Report is attached.

The next report from the College will be the Midterm Report¹ due on October 15, 2028. The institution's next comprehensive review will begin with Team ISER Review in the spring term of 2031 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in the fall term of 2031.

On behalf of the Commission, we wish to express appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that College of the Desert undertook to respond to these requirements.

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 templates available on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/accreditation-handbook-and-report-templates/>.

These efforts confirm that peer review can 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 Dr. Mac Powell or the vice president assigned as liaison to your institution.

Sincerely,



Mac Powell, MBA, Ph.D.
President



Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.
Chair

cc: Ms. Joy Cowden, Accreditation Liaison Officer