



### Exploring a Legacy of Excellence and Charting our Future

#### In this issue:

- What Does Accreditation Mean to Palomar?
- ISER Writing Team Updates
- ACCJC ISER Training
- Getting to Know Standard II
- Highlight Standards II and Win!
- Important Dates
- ISER Timeline

#### What Does Accreditation Mean to Palomar?

You may be wondering: What exactly is accreditation and why is it important to us as members of the Palomar College community? Put simply, Palomar College cannot operate without meeting the accreditation standards set by our regional accrediting body, so it's the responsibility of every faculty and staff member (that means YOU!) to make sure that we're meeting those standards.

Maintaining an accredited status assures the community and our students that the quality of instruction and sufficiency of resources we provide have been reviewed by a team of our academic peers and affirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Palomar's regional accrediting body. An accredited status also allows Palomar to offer federal financial aid to students, so it is crucial that we consider how our day to day work (not just our accreditation report) impacts accreditation and how each of us is an important part of the accreditation process.

ACCJC has developed a set of standards, 128 to be exact, that set the bar for the level of quality expected from a California community college in multiple areas. These areas include Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity; Student Learning Programs and Support Services; Resources; and Leadership and Governance. You can learn more about these standards [here](#).

#### Important Dates

The Accreditation Steering Committee is proud to present the accreditation writing teams for the ISER 2022!

Interested in joining our team?

Contact [Marti Snyder](#).

#### ISER Writing Team Updates

The Accreditation Steering Committee extends its sincere appreciation for all of the efforts put forth by each writing team to complete the first assignment of the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) Project. In Fall 2019, each of the 10 writing teams completed an ISER training, met numerous times throughout the semester, and created detailed, foundational outlines and possible sources of evidence for their respective standards. This semester, writing teams will use these outlines to guide them in producing a narrative first draft of the ISER and will begin incorporating related evidence that will serve as the backbone to the report. Great work writing teams!

Please join us in welcoming new Writing Team Leads Linda Beam and Yulian Ligioso, and Team Members John Armenta, Melissa Bagaglio, Patti Dixon, Melinda Finn, and Diane Studinka to the ISER project!

#### ACCJC ISER Training

The work of every member of the Palomar College faculty and staff is important in the accreditation process. On Wednesday, February 19, over 40 people attended the all-campus ACCJC ISER training session, led by our accreditation liaison, Dr. Stephanie Droker. Dr. Droker also facilitated a training to the Governing Board that evening. While she was here, Dr. Droker visited the Fallbrook Education Center as a step toward the final approval of the Center via the Substantive Change Proposal submitted and approved in Spring 2018.

#### Getting to Know Standard II

Standard II is the about heart of what we provide for our students, as our history of success in meeting Standard II is one of the main reasons why students attend Palomar College. Standard II is designed to ensure that "the institution offers instructional programs, library and learning support services, and student support services aligned with its mission." So it's pretty clear that this standard relates to all members of the Palomar community and encompasses the fantastic work that we do every day in service of our students.

Standard II.A—Instructional Programs requires the College to provide instruction, regardless of location or means of delivery, that meets generally accepted academic and professional standards and expectations and to identify and regularly assess course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. In addition, II.A requires colleges to maintain the general expectation for academic rigor and adhere to its institutional policies on degree requirements, general education, transfer of credit, program evaluation and improvement, etc. The work that we all do on our campus committees is especially important in this regard, so your service work is crucial here!

Standard II.B—Library and Learning Support Services requires the college to offer library and other learning support services, such as library collections, tutoring, learning centers, learning technology, etc. in order to enhance student learning. II.B requires sufficient supply and currency of educational equipment and materials and evaluation of learning support services to assure the college is meeting the needs of our students. This is something we work very hard on, so we want to showcase this in our report.

Standard II.C—Student Support Services requires the college to assure equitable access to all students through comprehensive and reliable support services. II.B requires that the college provide counseling and/or academic advising programs to foster student development and success, adhere to admissions policies consistent with our mission, and regularly evaluate the quality of our student support services. We are rich in the support services we provide to students!

#### Highlight Standard II and Win!

Each volume of the Accreditation Update will introduce to you, through a fun activity, a sample of Standards to be addressed in the ISER 2022. Complete the activity and submit it to the Accreditation Office to be entered to win a prize. For every activity completed, you will be entered into a grand prize drawing as the end of the writing project. The more activities completed, the greater opportunity for you to win the grand prize!

This volume of the Accreditation Update activity is to share a program or activity that Palomar College does well. What are some ways the college is meeting or exceeding the standards as related to Instruction, Student Services, or Library and Learning Support Services? Submit your short 2-3 sentence response to Marti Snyder via email at [accreditation@palomar.edu](mailto:accreditation@palomar.edu). The full list of standards for Standard II can be found in the [ACCJC Accreditation Standards](#).

Good luck!

<b>Writing Teams—Evidence Training</b>		
Tuesday, 2/11/2020	10-11:30 a.m.	LRC-438
Wednesday, 2/12/2020	1-2:30 p.m.	H-306
<b>ACCJC— ISER Training</b>		
<b>All Campus Training</b>		
Wednesday, 2/19/2020	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	LRC-438
<b>Governing Board Training</b>		
Wednesday, 2/19/2020	5:30-8:30 p.m.	LRC-438
<b>Accreditation Survey</b>		
<b>Accreditation Survey Questions Identified by Writing Teams</b>		
2/21/2022		
<b>Accreditation Survey Administered to Campus</b>		
Week of March 4, 2020		
<b>Writing Team—Journaling Days</b>		
Location: LRC-208		
Monday, 3/9/2020	1-2:30 p.m.	
Thursday, 3/19/2020	3-4:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, 4/7/2020	10-11:30 a.m.	
Monday, 4/13/2020	10-11:30 a.m.	
Tuesday, 4/21/2020	10-11:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, 4/29/2020	1-2:30 p.m.	

<b>ISER Timeline</b>	
<b>Fall 2019</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Accreditation Training to Councils and Writing Teams</li> <li>• Draft ISER 2022 Outline</li> </ul>	
<b>Spring 2020</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCJC conducts ISER training to campus personnel: 2/6/2020</li> <li>• ACCJC conducts ISER training to Governing Board: 2/19/2020</li> <li>• First draft of ISER 2022 and collection of ideas for Quality Focused Essay (QFE)</li> </ul>	
<b>Fall 2020</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second draft of ISER 2022</li> <li>• Draft QFE</li> </ul>	
<b>Spring 2021</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize ISER 2022 and QFE</li> </ul>	
<b>Fall 2021</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and endorsement of ISER 2022 (SPC and Governing Board)</li> </ul>	
<b>Spring 2022</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISER 2022 due to ACCJC: March 2022</li> <li>• Peer review site visit: TBD</li> </ul>	

