

# ACCREDITATION NOTES

Oct. 2010 Issue 5

*An Update on the Mt. San Antonio College  
Accreditation Self-Study*

## Accreditation Team to Arrive Oct. 25

The Accreditation Visiting Team will convene at Mt. SAC October 25-28, 2010. Composed of faculty and administrators from various community colleges across California, the team represents the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). We welcome these professionals as they discover all that is Mt. SAC. The team will convene two "open meetings" to give anyone on campus the opportunity to address matters relative to Mt. SAC. Those meetings will take place in the Learning Technology Center (Building 6, Room 160) on Tuesday, October 26 from 11:00 a.m. to noon and on Wednesday, October 27 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Exit Report, during which the Visiting Team Chair will report out on the team's recommendations and commendations for Mt. SAC, is also an open meeting and will be held on Thursday, October 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the Feddersen Recital Hall. The members of the Visiting Team are featured in this newsletter (p. 1-3). Please remember to give them a warm welcome when you see them around campus.

## Meet the 2010 Mt. SAC Accreditation Team



**Dr. Brian King, Chair** – Brian has served as the sixth president of Cabrillo College since 2004. When Cabrillo celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009, the college completed the most extensive campus transformation since it was built in the 1960s with a \$250-million bond program. Brian's path to the presidency of Cabrillo was not a straight line. His initial career was as a trial lawyer, having graduated from the Duke University School of Law. His interest in education stemmed from his childhood, when his mother taught first grade. For a change of pace, he accepted a teaching position at a start-up community college in Missouri in 1991, teaching American government and business law. What he thought would be a one-year experiment resulted in a new professional direction and a passion for community colleges.



**Geri Butler** – Geri has served Palo Verde College for 18 years, first as an instructor of business and office administration, and in her current position as Vice President of Administrative Services for the past 12 years. A graduate of National University, Geri is a widely regarded chief financial officer whose leadership and policy roles have made an impact on Palo Verde's growth, development, and success. This marks her fifth ACCJC accreditation visit.



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**Dr. Benjamin Duran** – Ben currently serves as the Superintendent/President of the Merced Community College District. He began his service at the college in 1991 as the Vice President of District Administrative Services. Before coming to Merced, Ben was District Superintendent of the Le Grand Union High School District. In addition, he has served as a principal, a counselor, and a teacher. He has also served as Assistant Director of Migrant Education, Region III at the Merced County Office of Education. Ben earned an associate degree at Merced, a bachelor's at California State University- Stanislaus, a master's at Chapman University, and a doctorate in educational administration at USC. He remains involved in numerous community and educational organizations.



**Virginia Findley** – Virginia joined the Cuesta College faculty in 1983 and has since taught in the Business Education Division's Computer Information Science and Computer Applications Departments. From 2002-07, she coordinated the Business Education Division operations at the satellite campus in Paso Robles. Since 2007, Virginia has served as the Business Education Division Chair, supervising 52 faculty and 10 different programs, as well as collaborating with campuswide faculty and administration on several committees. She holds a B.A. in social science/criminal justice, a secondary teaching credential, and a master's in computer-aided instruction from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.



**Dennis Bailey-Fougner** – Dennis is Vice President of Student Services at Cabrillo College. He has served the higher education community for more than 26 years, working at colleges and universities in Oregon, Virginia, and Kansas. Dennis most recently served as the Chief Student Services Officer at Feather River College, where he chaired the FRC Foundations Scholarship Committee. Dennis earned an associate degree at Mesa College, a bachelor's at the University of Oregon, a master's at Wichita State University, and is completing his doctoral dissertation in community college leadership at Oregon State University.



**Irene Griff** – Irene is Director of Institutional Research at El Camino College. Before joining the college in 2005, she was Director of the Testing Office at the University of California-Irvine. Irene earned a bachelor's degree in linguistics at the University of Wisconsin, a master's in social science/demography at UCI, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at California State University-Long Beach. Her professional interests include investigating student success strategies and making data meaningful and useable.



**Dominique Hansen, Assistant** – Dominique is the Executive Assistant to the President at the Cabrillo Community College District in Santa Cruz, and she also serves the governing board. Previously, she was Executive Assistant to the Academic Senate Director at the University of California-Santa Cruz. A Cabrillo graduate, Dominique earned a B.A. in communication at San Jose State University. This is her first ACCJC Accreditation Team experience.



**Sydney Fisher Larson** – Sydney is Professor of Early Childhood Education at College of the Redwoods in Eureka. She earned a bachelor's degree at Humboldt State University and a master's at Pacific Oaks College. Prior to teaching at College of the Redwoods, Sydney administered state-funded child care programs. She also was an adjunct professor at Redwoods and taught and served as a VISTA volunteer in northern New Mexico. Sydney is passionate about early care and education and was involved in several statewide and local initiatives, including the Child Development Training Consortium, the Faculty Initiative Project, the Curriculum Alignment Project, the California Community College Early Childhood Educators, and the Humboldt Association for the Education of Young Children.



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**Joseph Meyer** – Joe is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Los Angeles City College (both in the classroom and online). He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science at Marquette University and pursued doctoral studies at USC. After working for the Center for Public Education in International Relations, Joe left to pursue a career as a stand-up comic and writer. He toured the nation and parts of Canada and has been an "extra" in over 50 productions for a "total screen time of less than a minute." Joe has taught American Government at several community colleges in the Los Angeles area and remains an active member of the International Studies Association.



**Cheryl Stewart** – Cheryl has served as Librarian at Coastline Community College since 1999. During that time, she has served as Academic Senate President and has chaired numerous committees, including Student Success, Mission, Planning and Budget,

Professional Development Institute, and Distance Learning. Cheryl was an Accreditation Self-Study co-chair when Coastline went through its accreditation process a few years ago. In addition to her college committee work, she currently serves on two district committees: District Budget Advisory Committee and District Policies and Procedures. The library at Coastline is entirely virtual, which has created both opportunities and challenges for Cheryl. She teaches an online information competency class.



**Dr. Peter Quigley** – Peter has been a tenured Professor of Humanities, American Studies, and English both in the United States and in Europe. He was awarded two consecutive Fulbright Scholarships at the University of Bergen in Norway. In addition, Peter has been

Dean of Academics at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Dean of Arts and Humanities at Minnesota State University, Chancellor at Leeward Community College, Interim Vice Chancellor at University of Hawaii, Manoa, and is currently Associate Vice President of Community Colleges at University of Hawaii. Peter's focus has been on redesigning curriculum programs, and other operational elements in higher education to better address student learning and students success.

## Mt. SAC Accreditation Team Assignments

### By Standard

- Standard - **IA: Mission**  
*Lead, Ben Duran; Support, Joe Meyer*
- Standard - **IB: Improving Effectiveness**  
*Lead, Irene Graff; Support, Peter Quigley*
- Standard - **IIA: Instructional Programs**  
*Lead, Peter Quigley; Support, Joe Meyer*
- Standard - **IIB: Student Support Services**  
*Lead, Dennis Bailey-Fougnier (Standard Coordinator)  
Support, Sydney Larson*
- Standard - **IIC: Library and Learning Support Services**  
*Lead, Cheryl Stewart; Support, Sydney Larson*
- Standard - **III: Resources**  
*Lead, Geri Butler (Standard Coordinator)*
- Standard - **IIIA: Human Resources**  
*Lead, Geri Butler; Support, Ben Duran*
- Standard - **IIIB: Physical Resources**  
*Lead, Brian King; Support, Peter Quigley*
- Standard - **IIIC: Technology Resources**  
*Lead, Irene Graff; Support, Virginia Findley*
- Standard - **IIID: Financial Resources**  
*Lead, Virginia Findley; Support, Joe Meyer*
- Standard - **IVA: Decision-Making Roles and Processes**  
*Lead, Ben Duran; Support, Irene Graff*
- Standard - **IVE: Board and Administrative Organization**  
*Lead, Brian King; Support, Cheryl Stewart*

### By Team Member

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| <b>Ben:</b> IA, IIIA & IVA                   | <b>Geri:</b> III<br>(Standard Coordinator) |
| <b>Irene:</b> IB, III C & IVA                | <b>Joe:</b> IA, IIA & IIID                 |
| <b>Peter:</b> IIA, IB & IIIB                 | <b>Virginia:</b> IIIC & IIID               |
| <b>Dennis:</b> IIB<br>(Standard Coordinator) | <b>Sydney:</b> IIC & IIB                   |
| <b>Cheryl:</b> IIC & IVB                     | <b>Brian:</b> IIIB & IVB                   |



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## Mt. SAC Ready for Accreditation Team Visit



*Mt. SAC Accreditation  
Self-Study Co-Chairs  
Barbara McNeice-Stallard  
and Kristina Allende.*

After two years of hard work, Mt. SAC is now ready for the next milestone in the six-year accreditation cycle—the Accreditation Team visit, set for Oct. 25-28.

Accreditation is the process by which community colleges are evaluated, based on rigorous standards set by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The role of the 11-member Mt. SAC accreditation team is to validate whether and how well Mt. SAC meets those standards.

“I believe Mt. SAC is a stellar community college and will do quite well through the accreditation evaluation,” says President **John Nixon**.

Throughout the meticulous process, Mt. SAC’s accreditation leadership has been focused on documenting the college’s efforts to meet the core standards.

“We are all about meeting the criteria standards, and we are all about improving what we do,” notes Accreditation Co-chair **Barbara McNeice-Stallard**. “Without accreditation, there is no college.” Co-chair **Kristina Allende** agrees, noting that the process also “allows us to learn more about ourselves and identify areas in need of improvement.”

The four accreditation standards are **Institutional Mission, Improving Effectiveness, Instructional Programs, Student Support Services, Library and Learning Support Services, Resources, Human Resources, Physical Resources, Technology Resources, Financial Resources, Decision-Making Roles and Processes, and Board and Administrative Organization** (see page 3 for the Team’s standard assignments).

The Accreditation Team visit is also the culmination of a two-year campuswide self-evaluation process that assessed the quality of instruction, programs, and services the college provides. The analysis, based on the ACCJC standards, was compiled in a 300-page self-study document. Fifty-four Mt. SAC faculty, staff, managers, and students worked on the college’s *2010 Self-Study Report*.

“We tried to make this process as inclusive as possible by including all segments of the campus,” said McNeice-Stallard. “For anybody who wants to know more about our college, this is a very revealing and informative document.”

Mt. SAC’s *2010 Self-Study* is available online at [http://www.mtsa.c.edu/administration/accreditation/2010self\\_study.html](http://www.mtsa.c.edu/administration/accreditation/2010self_study.html). A limited number of hard copies are available through the President’s Office. Also available online is an archive of past issues of this *Accreditation Notes* newsletter, which chronicles Mt. SAC’s accreditation process and progress at each major milestone.

