

Dear Colleagues:

On March 12, the chair of the Laney College Accreditation Team, Kern Community College District Chancellor Dr. Sandra Serrano reported the preliminary findings of the accreditation visit to the Laney College community.

Dr. Serrano provided us with a number of positive commendations:

- * A high level of energy and commitment among faculty and staff coupled with an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration
- * Staff resourcefulness, emphasizing grants for basic skills initiatives and tutoring
- * Dramatically improved facilities
- * Putting “community” back into community college, through projects such as the East Bay Career Advancement Academy, Gateway to College and other business/community partnerships
- * Substantial progress in the development of SLOs
- * Impressive career and technical education courses, including the Culinary Arts program
- * A “stand out” Welcome Center staffed by student ambassadors

Dr. Serrano also laid out some corrective recommendations:

- * Focus on financial management; including productive and timely fiscal reports
- * Streamlined integration of the Educational and Facility Mater Plans
- * Improve Financial Aid and extend evening office hours
- * Improve and update technology, including additional staff training
- * Better communication among shared governance bodies
- * Strengthen district/college partnerships through retreats, listening sessions and clearly understood, and followed, processes.

It is important to remember that the Accreditation Team’s oral exit report is just the first step in a process that will culminate in a final report adopted by the Accrediting Commission in June, 2009.

Chancellor Serrano was particularly appreciative of the warm and responsive welcome her team received at Laney. I am grateful to everyone who pitched in to help make our guests feel at home, particularly Maisha Jameson and Lisa Watkins-Tanner of my office who provided exemplary leadership and support. Dr. Elnora Webb did an outstanding job as Accreditation Officer. Dr. Matt Goldstein and Dr. Karolyn Van Putten, co Chairs of the Laney Self-Study, were superb. Please join me in offering them our gratitude.

As president of Laney College, I am extremely proud and encouraged by the preliminary report. Our visitors were impressed by the passion and positive energy they experienced here. I salute all of you for your dedication to our students!

Frank Chong
Laney Collegeeident
March 2009