

ACCREDITATION

College confident in meeting ACCJC standards

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VICTORVILLE — Victor Valley College's acting president/superintendent is confident the school will meet all the standards to remain accredited.

During Tuesday's board meeting, Acting President Peter Allan gave a report on the college's progress toward meeting the three remaining recommendations set by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

In June 2011, the ACCJC placed the college on a two-year probation for failing to comply with several standards, giving the college until Oct. 15 to meet the standards. If the ACCJC deems the college has not met the standards, it will be placed on a "show cause" status, which could lead to losing its accreditation.

Accreditation is needed for a school to provide degrees, transfers to four year schools and financial aid.

According to Allan, eight of the nine recommendations meet ACCJC requirements.

Allan said Recommendation 2, which addresses student learning, program review and institutional processes, is 100 percent complete.

On Recommendation 3, which deals with student learning outcome assessments, Allan is confident the college's assessment of 71.5 percent is "on par with the rest of the colleges in California."

"I've looked at annual reports of schools from all around the state; they're all in the 70 percent range. I feel confident the visiting team will be happy with that result," Allan said.

The only standard that has not been completed is Recommendation 6 — securing the long-term financial health of the college by solving the structural deficit.

The college is working on reducing some of its long-term expenses, such as salaries and benefits, by negotiation with the three different faculty unions on campus. Allan said some of the suggestions are retirement incentives and putting a cap on benefits. VVC spokesman Bill Greulich said the college is on schedule with developing the plan for Recommendation 6.

"I feel pretty good about it, actually, because I think that the culture has changed and people are accepting the concept of continuous improvement," Greulich said. "I really feel better of our situation today than any time in the past because the progress that's been made is visual. I can see it and everybody is working toward the same goal. Everyone is working hard to resolve these issues and it shows."

Allan said he feels confident there is enough information to solve Recommendation 6, but added that it won't be a short-term solution.