



Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR  
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Dear Colleagues,

At its January Commission meeting, the Commission took up a topic that has been discussed across the accreditation community for several years: the definition and role of public members on accrediting commissions.

Currently, the ACCJC Commission consists of 19 members, three of whom explicitly serve under our Bylaws as designated public members, the minimum number required by federal regulations. These individuals are not employed by, nor affiliated with, ACCJC accredited institutions.

At its meeting last week, and in alignment with the practices of other agencies and the recommendations of our colleagues in Washington, D.C., the Commission voted to increase the number of public members. This action expands the size of the Commission to potentially 23 members and allows ACCJC to add two additional public members during the spring 2026 election cycle. As a result, a larger and more clearly identifiable portion of the Commission will be serving explicitly in public member roles.

The Commission took this action deliberately and with a commitment to transparency, integrity, and public accountability. Recent conversations about accreditation reform have emphasized the importance of independent public voices and external perspectives on accrediting commissions, and we believe this step responds thoughtfully to those broader expectations.

We hope this action signals to observers, policymakers, and the public that ACCJC remains attentive to evolving expectations and willing to adapt its governance structures in ways that reinforce trust and confidence in accreditation.

Above all, this decision reflects our continued focus on serving students and safeguarding the public interest, while ensuring that accreditation remains credible, responsive, and worthy of public trust in a changing policy environment.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional context or discussion would be helpful. We value the ongoing dialogue and partnership.

Warm regards,

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Mac Powell, MBA, PhD

President

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

[www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org)