

**California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officers
Accreditation Reform Timeline 2009-2017**

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and CEO Board (CEOCCC) Activities	
2009-2010	CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 1.0* convened by Jack Scott, Chancellor Jan 2010 – Memo with 7 recommendations presented to ACCJC
2010-2012	Numerous CEO Board discussions regarding concerns about accreditation and ACCJC's high rates of sanctions and lack of transparency, collegiality, and consistency
2013	CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 2.0* convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Work inconclusive; report not released
March 2014	2 Joint CEO/ACCJC Meetings - Northern (Los Rios CCD)/Southern (West Los Angeles College) 40 CEOs met with Commissioners Amador, Rodriguez, Gornick and President Beno to discuss concerns and recommendations.
April 2014	CEO Letter to ACCJC re: City College of San Francisco, urging two-year accreditation extension, with 76 CEO signatures
June 2014	CEO letter to ACCJC Commission outlining 10 recommendations in 3 major areas of concern: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. collaboration and communication 2. professional development (improve institution/chair/team training) 3. reaffirmation/accreditation (improve processes/shift from sanction to prevention)
January 2015	CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Action: Revised Title V regulations to remove specific mention of ACCJC [NOTE: CA Ed Code requires BOG to define accreditation conditions for colleges to receive state funding. Title V regulations require each college to be accredited by an accreditor recognized by US Secretary of ED, that is recommended by State Chancellor and approved by BOG]
2015	CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 3.0* convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Meetings beginning January 2015, reviewed broad research, constituent feedback, prior reports. August 2015 Report: CCCCO Task Force on Accreditation included crosswalk of recommendations to ACCJC from 2009-2014, ACCJC actions 2005-2015, ideal accreditor attributes, and recommended establishing a new accrediting model for California community colleges.
November 2015	CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting: Agenda Item: Accreditation Task Force Report BOG Action: BOG accepted Task Force recommendations and passed the following resolution: <i>"The current structure of ACCJC, along with its lack of credibility as perceived by its peers and the public, no longer meet the current and anticipated needs of California community colleges."</i> BOG directed system Chancellor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share the report with USDE for review of ACCJC's recognition status ▪ Work through the system's consultation process to bring to BOG March 2016 meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A recommendation for action to establish a new model for an accrediting agency 2. An implementation plan, along with timeline.
Dec 2015 – Feb 2016	CCCCO Accreditation Implementation Task Force 4.0* (expanded membership of TF3.0 with additional CEOs, trustees) convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Meeting w/ACCJC staff, Commissioners to discuss Task Force report, BOG actions, and next steps. Meeting w/WASC Senior Commission staff, board members regarding options for collaboration. Prepared draft plan for CCCCCO Consultation Council review. CEO Board committed to a taking a stronger role in accreditation focused on what colleges need in an accreditor to meet needs of colleges, students, communities, and the workforce, with four goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address changing reality of higher education ▪ Respect our culture of collegial consultation ▪ Encourage risk-taking and innovation ▪ Drive change through collaboration and respect

*Task forces included representatives from statewide academic senate, chief executive officers, chief instructional officers, chief student services officers, organized labor, boards of trustees, state chancellor's office

March 14 - 20, 2016

Statewide CEO Symposium (Yosemite)

More than 80 CEOs participated in 3-hour session on accreditation, focused on the history and role of CEOs in accreditation, review of Task Force 3.0 report, and future of accreditation for the region. Following small and full-group discussions, participants responded to the following survey:

Accreditation Feedback Form

It is time for the CEOs to come together to lead this effort.

Please check the option you prefer. If neither appeals to you, write your own Option 3. If you choose Options 1 or 2, but desire to change the language, please insert your changes.

Option 1

I believe that the current accreditor for California community colleges, ACCJC, is doing an effective job and represents the appropriate model of accreditation for our colleges moving forward. ACCJC is on the right track, and has implemented effective reforms in response to challenges and changes.

Option 2

I believe that there should be fundamental changes made to our accreditation processes and structures. During any exploration of change, all colleges must maintain their current status, terms, and cycle for accreditation with the ACCJC. A parallel approach should be followed which includes

- *making improvements in the existing processes and culture of ACCJC, and*
- *at the same time, exploring alternative structures for a regional accreditor, which will take many years to develop.*

To pursue changes, the member organizations should immediately form two representative planning groups to

- *develop and recommend improvements regarding the ACCJC, and*
- *facilitate communication leading to the long-range goal of California’s community colleges participating in a structure for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education.*

These two planning groups should include representatives from the California community colleges, the University of Hawaii community colleges, the Western Pacific community colleges and the ACCJC, and, where appropriate, other regional accreditors.

Option 3 (enter your own option, if desired)

Following the meeting, the survey was also emailed to all CEOs in the state who were unable to attend, inviting them to respond.

March 20 - results distributed to all CEOs:

# Participants	Support Option 1: No change	Support Option 2: 2-prong change	Support Option 3: Other change	None Selected
99	5	78	10	6

Of the overall 136 California community college CEOs, 99 (73%) responded to the survey. 89% opted for change (Option 2/3); 5% opted for no change (Option 1).

March 2016

CEO Board (CCCCEO) Meeting

Action Taken: CEO Board established two CEO Workgroups (w/representatives from 11 CA regions):

- Workgroup I:** Improving ACCJC Structure, Function, and Relations
- Workgroup II:** Western Region Higher Education Accrediting Model Long-Range

March 21, 2016

CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Action Item [New Model of Accreditation for CCCs](#)

BOG accepted the recommendation and directed the system Chancellor:

- Notify ACCJC of BOG support for CEOCCC plan
- Participate with CEOs in coordinating 2 workgroups:
 1. Recommend immediate changes to improve existing processes and culture of ACCJC
 2. Pursue a model for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education in the Western region.
- Report back to BOG beginning July 2016

WORKGROUP I: Improving ACCJC Structure, Function, and Relations	
March - April 2016	Conference calls/emails to establish members and arrange meetings dates/agendas CEO representatives identified by each of the 11 CEOCCC region, plus private two-year college, 2 Academic Senate, 2 ALOs, 2 ACCJC Commissioners
Mar 18, 2016	ACCJC Commission Development Workshop , Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, CA CEOs Brian King and Helen Benjamin meeting with ACCJC President Beno, and Commissioners Rodriguez, Kinsella, and Christian prior to meeting; discuss proposed membership and goals of WG I, BOG resolution
April 21, 2016	Workgroup I - Southern California meeting - Chaffey College Review of ACCJC By-laws and CEO Areas of Focus discussed
April 27, 2016	Workgroup I - Northern California meeting held at Peralta CCCC Steering Committee with 5 Areas of Focus: 1. Chair and Team Training – Kindred Murrillo (chair/CEO), Debbie DiThomas (CEO), Lori Bennett (ALO) 2. Communication – Kevin Walthers (chair/CEO), Victor Jaime (CEO), Kathy Hart (CEO) 3. Member Evaluation of the Commission/Staff Leadership Assessment – David Wayne Coon (chair/CEO), David Morse (Academic Senate), Kathryn Jeffery (CEO) 4. Process and Structure of College Evaluation Reports, Team Reports and Visits – Michael Claire (chair/CEO), Meredith Randall (ALO), Julie Bruno (Academic Senate) 5. Commission Operations – John Weispfenning, (chair/CEO), John Zimmerman (private colleges/ACCJC commission), Marvin Martinez (CEO)
April 28, 2016	Workgroup I - survey issued to 2015 team chairs, team members and CEOs of institutions recently evaluated/visited
May 1, 2016	Workgroup I - teams begin work on their respective Areas of Focus
May 16, 2016	Workgroup I - draft report due to the Steering Committee
May 23, 2016	Workgroup I - conference calls scheduled to review, discuss and edit the draft report
May 25, 2016	Workgroup I - draft report shared with CEO's
June 1, 2016	Workgroup I - Final Report issued CEO's
June 8, 2016	ACCJC Commission Meeting Closed Session , San Jose, CA, Doubletree Hotel CEOs Helen Benjamin and Brian King present Workgroup I preliminary report to the ACCJC Commission: Improving ACCJC Structure, Function and Relations
June 10, 2016	ACCJC Commission Meeting Open Session Benjamin presents final report overview
July 18, 2016	Update to CCCC Board of Governors: Accreditation Update – CEO Workgroups I & II
Aug 16, 2016	ACCJC memo from Susan Kazama, Commission Chair and Barbara Beno, President ACCJC Preliminary Response to the Recommendations of Workgroup I
Sept 9, 2016	Workgroup I meeting with ACCJC Commissioners – Oakland Airport Hilton
Sept 20, 2016	Update to CCCC Board of Governors: Accreditation Update CEO Workgroups I & II Workgroup I update by Helen Benjamin
Oct 11, 2016	Workgroup I meeting with ACCJC Commissioners – Oakland Airport Hilton Three tasks: (1) prioritize recommendations; (2) develop survey for Fall 2016 team chairs, team members, CEOs of evaluated/visited colleges; (3) review progress by ACCJC on WG1 recommendations.
Nov 17, 2016	Accreditation Update at Statewide CEO Meeting: CEO Workgroups I & II Workgroup I update by Helen Benjamin
Dec 6, 2016	Survey issued to fall 2016 team chairs, team members and CEOs of evaluated/visited
Feb 9, 2016	Workgroup I Representatives from five Areas of Focus meeting with ACCJC Commissioners Four hour meeting with members of the ACCJC Policy Committee and Planning and Evaluation committee to monitor implementation of WGI recommendations.

Workgroup II: Western Region Higher Education Accrediting Model	
March - April 2016	Conference calls/emails to establish members and arrange meetings dates/agendas CEO representatives identified by each of the 11 CEOCCC region, plus California public/private CEOs, Hawaii CEO, WSCUC president/commission chair
May 19, 2016	Workgroup II Meeting – Los Rios CCD 4-hour workshop; 14 members reviewed and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History and purpose of accreditation ▪ National structure and climate of accreditation ▪ Reports comparing size, structure, history of sanctions, boards of 7 regional accreditors ▪ USDE/Congress calls for more public information on student achievement, completion rates, college costs, loan default rates, loan repayments, colleges “at risk” of accreditation sanction ▪ Work plan: (1) How higher education “alignment” works in other commissions, (2) Elements of model higher education accrediting system for the Western Region
May - June 2016	Member research and survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structure and alignment in other regions/commissions in each region. ▪ Elements of model higher education accrediting system for Western Region.
July 14, 2016	Workgroup II Meeting – Coast CCD 4-hour workshop with 14 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president/commission chair): Reviewed team research on models of higher education alignment in other regions Identified key elements for a model accrediting system Developed a roadmap of options for alignment of higher education accreditation in the Western Region: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stronger relationship between ACCJC and WASC Senior (WSCUC) 2. Two-year colleges can choose accreditor (ACCJC or WSCUC) 3. Single accreditor for Western region 4. Relationship with another accreditor (not WSCUC) External factors noted to potentially affect the remaining options were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NACIQI/US DoED reaction to ACCJC’s recognition status and request to accredit baccalaureates ▪ NACIQI/US DoED reaction to WSCUC potential request to change scope to include community colleges or to community college choice of accreditors ▪ Lawsuits being pressed against ACCJC ▪ Attempts at legislative intrusion into accreditation matters
July 20, 2016	Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference 1.5 hour meeting with 6 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend July 14 meeting
Sept 20, 2016	Update to CCCCO Board of Governors: Accreditation Update CEO Workgroups I & II Workgroup II update by Cindy Miles
Oct 25, 2016	Teleconference with US Department of Education (USDE) Workgroup II Convener Cindy Miles with Under Secretary Ted Mitchell, Deputy Asst. Secretary Lynn Mahaffie, Senior Policy Advisor Philip Martin USDE is very aware of CCCCEO workgroup activities , applauds focus on alignment It is important to think about the future of our community colleges and ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>What will CCs look like 10-20 years from now? More bachelor’s degrees, growth of multiple missions, increased short-term certificates, more focus on post-graduate employment?</i> ▪ <i>What accreditation system is needed for this future? What peers would you need?</i> Re: Question of process for colleges to seek a change in accreditors if desired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choice is not USDE’s decision; this is accreditor’s concern. ▪ Accreditor receiving request would examine its existing scope as to how well it aligns with the institution(s) making the request; would apply to USDE for change of scope, if needed. ▪ Geography is part of scope, so applying to another region would require accreditor to change its scope [USDE does not take regionalist view; regions are designated by regionals themselves] ▪ Any institution seeking to change accreditor must be in good standing with current accreditor; exception is possible if accepting accreditor submits justification to USDE

Oct 28, 2016	<p>Workgroup II Meeting – Chabot College 5 hour workshop; 13 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president/commission chair, ACCJC commission vice chair) Update from ACCJC and Workgroup I from ACCJC commission vice chair Rodriquez Reviewed research comparing relations between community and senior colleges in Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Higher Learning Commission (HLC), WSCUC Briefing on higher education policy, workings of US Dept. of Education & NACIQI by Jamiene Studley, National Policy Advisor, Beyond 12; Former Deputy Under Secretary, NACIQI Chair, USDE Clarified WSCUC’s and ACCJC’s interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WSCUC is growing and <u>is</u> open to new members, already has two former ACCJC members, Maui and Western Marianas, but they do not recruit members. ▪ ACCJC’s seeking USDE approval to accredit baccalaureate degrees already changed the traditional playing field, set precedent for WSCUC to consider other options. ▪ WSCUC is <u>not</u> interested in legal merger with ACCJC 501(c)3 organization. <p>Reviewed Options Pathway Discussed four options identified in July and what would be best for long-term future of higher education institutions and students in the Western region. After much deliberation, members reached unanimous agreement on long-range goal: A SINGLE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR THE WESTERN REGION Noted that this would take a number of years (up to 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many steps and considerations would need to be clarified – but could be a process of colleges transitioning from ACCJC to WSCUC following existing reaffirmation cycles ▪ It would be critical to sustain viability and USDE recognition of ACCJC during all transitions <p>Discussed motivation for a single higher education accreditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing need for transfer pathways, bachelor’s degree completion ▪ Changing populations and public demands on higher education ▪ Structural inconsistency of split higher ed accreditation, unlike all other regions ▪ Desire for community colleges to be perceived as integral part of higher education ▪ Similar institutional goals, missions, standards, communities, students served ▪ Similar issues: student success, consistency, transparency, accountability ▪ Strength in unity to deal with the onslaught of accountability and accreditation changes
Nov 8, 2016	<p>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference 1.5 hour meeting with 3 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend Oct 28 meeting (plus individual call w/others). All confirmed their agreement with the recommendation.</p>
Nov 17, 2016	<p>Accreditation Update at Statewide CEO Meeting: CEO Workgroups I & II Workgroup II update by Cindy Miles</p>
Jan 17, 2017	<p>Workgroup II Meeting – San Diego CCD 4-hour workshop; 14 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president/commission chair, ACCJC commission chair) Update from ACCJC and Workgroup I – ACCJC vice chair Rodriquez; guest ACCJC interim CEO Winn Update from Statewide CEO Meeting Majority seemed to support pathway to single accreditor; a few colleagues voiced concerns that need to be thoughtfully considered (costs, work involved, process not clear, WSCUC’s understanding of community colleges not known, need to show return on investment). Draft Framework: Communicating to ACCJC Members and key constituents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hawaii and Western Pacific colleges (Pacific Postsecondary Education Council March 28) ▪ Discussions with all key constituent groups (upcoming ACCCA, Academic Senate Accreditation Institute, CEO Symposium, CCCT Conference, etc.) ▪ Board of Governors would need to approve accrediting agency ▪ California legislators should be informed; not involved in decision-making <p>Develop White Paper – with criteria, rationale, overall timeline and steps to help with discussions, decision-making over coming months</p>
Feb 2, 2017	<p>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference 1.5 hour meeting with 5 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend Jan 17 meeting.</p>