

March 19, 2013

To all PCC students:

Last week, the Higher Learning Commission notified Pima Community College that it is considering a change in PCC's status. As a student, you should know what this means, and what's next for PCC.

The first and most important point is that the PCC you returned to after Spring Break hasn't changed. We remain fully accredited by the HLC. The quality of our instruction, programs and services is undiminished. PCC still is a great place to get a quality education at a reasonable price.

I want to emphasize that the HLC has not identified any concerns with our academic programs or student services. However, due to concerns related primarily to administrative and governance issues, HLC President Sylvia Manning is recommending to the HLC Board that it should place PCC on probation. The Board will meet next month to decide PCC's status.

Ms. Manning's recommendation is based on a report by a fact-finding team sent to PCC in January by the HLC. The team was here to learn more about PCC governance and administration. (You can read the report and other materials on the [Accreditation page](#) of our website.)

What does probation mean for PCC students, should the HLC Board impose it? Probation would not affect PCC's ability to offer financial aid to our students. Our academic offerings will remain unchanged. Also, about 20 individual PCC programs are accredited or certified by specialized agencies recognized by the Arizona Department of Education and/or the U.S. Department of Education. Their status also remains unchanged.

According to the HLC, probation indicates an institution is not in compliance with one or more of the commission's Criteria for Accreditation, and must demonstrate within two years it has remedied the issues that led to the sanction. (For more information, consult the [HLC's Special Conditions for Affiliation](#) webpage.)

We are cooperating fully with the HLC, and while our obvious goal is to avoid probation, we will work diligently to quickly improve our operations should it be imposed. The HLC accredited PCC in 2010 for 10 years, and we are confident that we will be able to demonstrate that our accreditation is well deserved.

Lastly, please know that you, our students, are PCC's top priority. We will take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the education you receive at PCC is the best it can be. That is my promise to you.

Feel free to direct any questions you may have regarding accreditation to my office at Accred-Questions@pima.edu.

Jerry Migler, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of Pima Community College